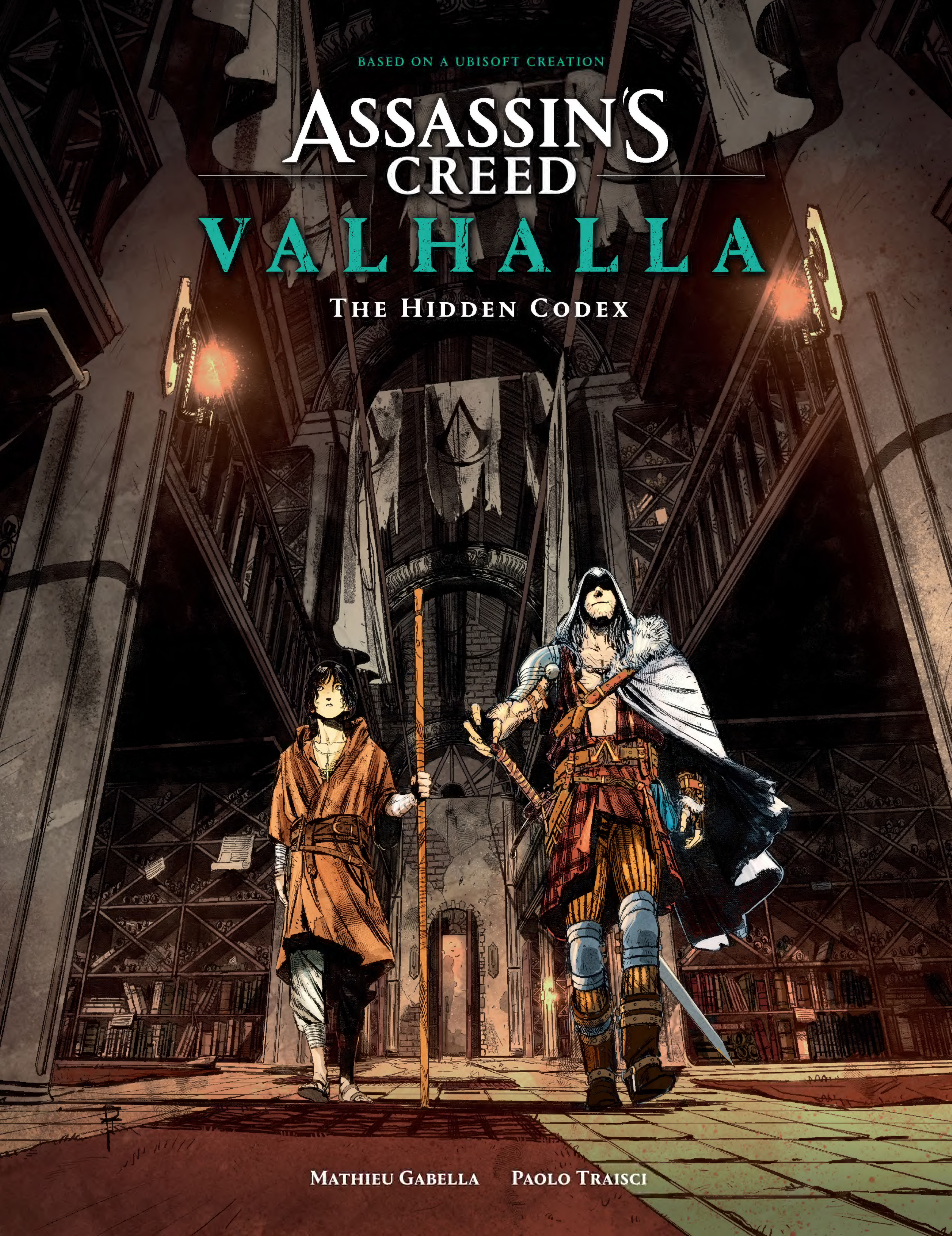


BASED ON A UBISOFT CREATION

ASSASSIN'S CREED VALHALLA

THE HIDDEN CODEX



MATHIEU GABELLA PAOLO TRAISCI

ASSASSIN'S CREED® VALHALLA

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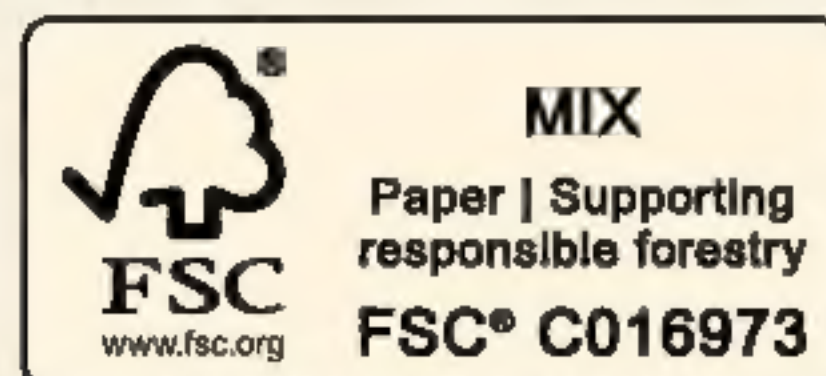
Assassin's Creed Valhalla: The Hidden Codex

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READINGUM ABBEY.

YOU HAVE TO STOP, EDWARD.

STOP WHAT?



STOP LIVING?



LEAVE US.



I HAVE ENOUGH ON MY PLATE WITHOUT YOUR ANTICS, EDWARD. I'M TRYING TO LEAD A CONGREGATION HERE.



THEN LET ME LEAVE ONCE IN A WHILE, BROTHER! LOOK WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO AVOID BEING RECOGNIZED.

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING.



I DIDN'T ASK TO BE TRAPPED HERE!

OUR FAMILY DID IT FOR BOTH OUR SAKES. IF YOU LEAVE THE MONASTERY, IT WILL BRING--

"SHAAAME"! YES, WE ALL KNOW THE PSALM!



I DON'T MAKE THE RULES. I JUST KNOW THE COST OF NOT OBEYING THEM, WHETHER THEY WERE SET BY GOD OR MA--

BORING!



YOU COULD SEND ME TO SLEEP FASTER THAN FATHER BRAN WHEN HE READS FROM HIS PRAYER BOOK.



BUT THIS LOOKS INTERESTING. WHAT IS IT? I'VE NEVER SEEN LETTERS LIKE THESE BEFORE.



I RECEIVED IT A FEW DAYS AGO. I CANNOT DECIPHER THE SYMBOLS AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHY IT WAS SENT TO ME. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?



THE PAPYRUS IS NOT FROM AROUND HERE. IT WAS CLEARLY WRITTEN USING AN ORDINARY REED PEN...THE PIGMENTS ARE STRANGE, TOO.

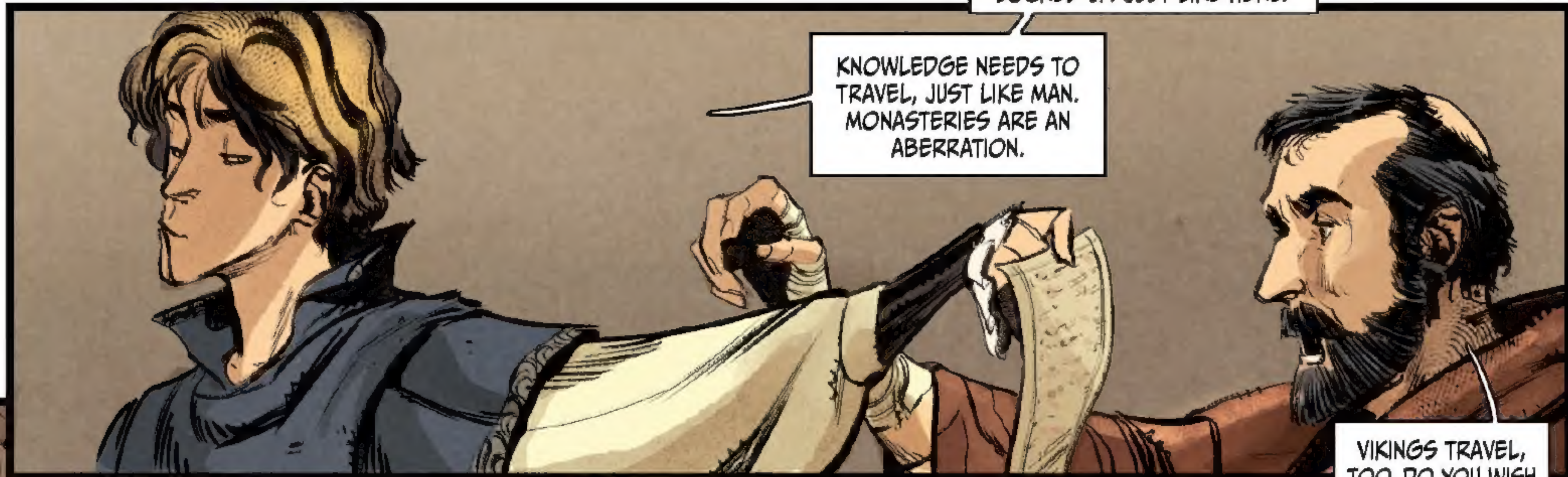
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE SYMBOLS, BUT THERE'S A STRUCTURE TO HOW THEY'RE ARRANGED. IT'S DEFINITELY A LANGUAGE.



YOU TRULY BELONG HERE, BROTHER. NO ONE IN THE MONASTERY IS AS GIFTED AS YOU WHEN IT COMES TO LANGUAGE, ART, AND EVEN SCIENCE.

THOUGH YOU COULD ALSO GO TO LINDISFARNE OR WINCESTRE. THEIR LIBRARIES ARE SAID TO BE UNMATCHED.

KNOWLEDGE LOCKED UP. MONKS LOCKED UP. JUST LIKE HERE.



KNOWLEDGE NEEDS TO TRAVEL, JUST LIKE MAN. MONASTERIES ARE AN ABERRATION.



DON'T FORGET TO TAKE OFF YOUR WIG.

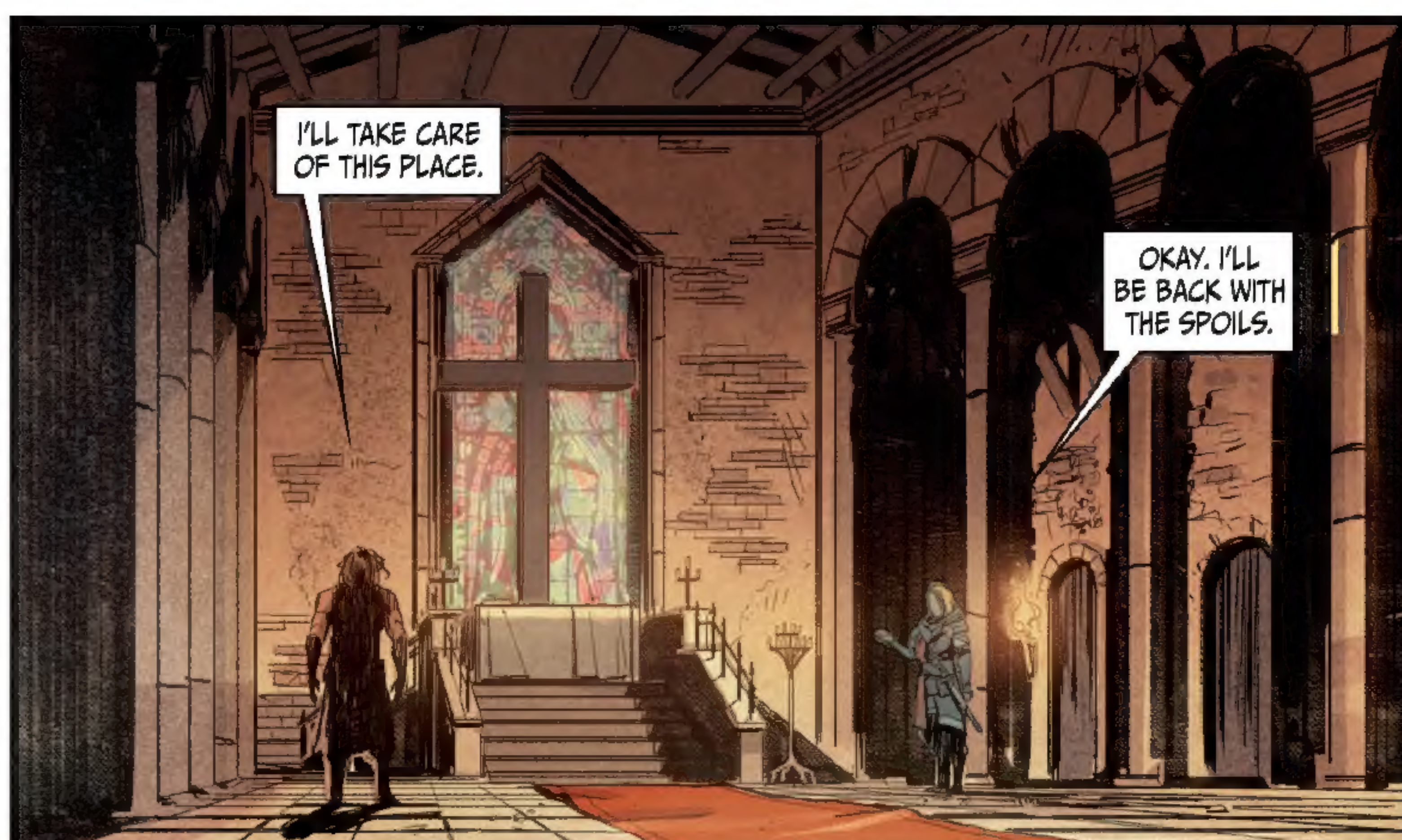
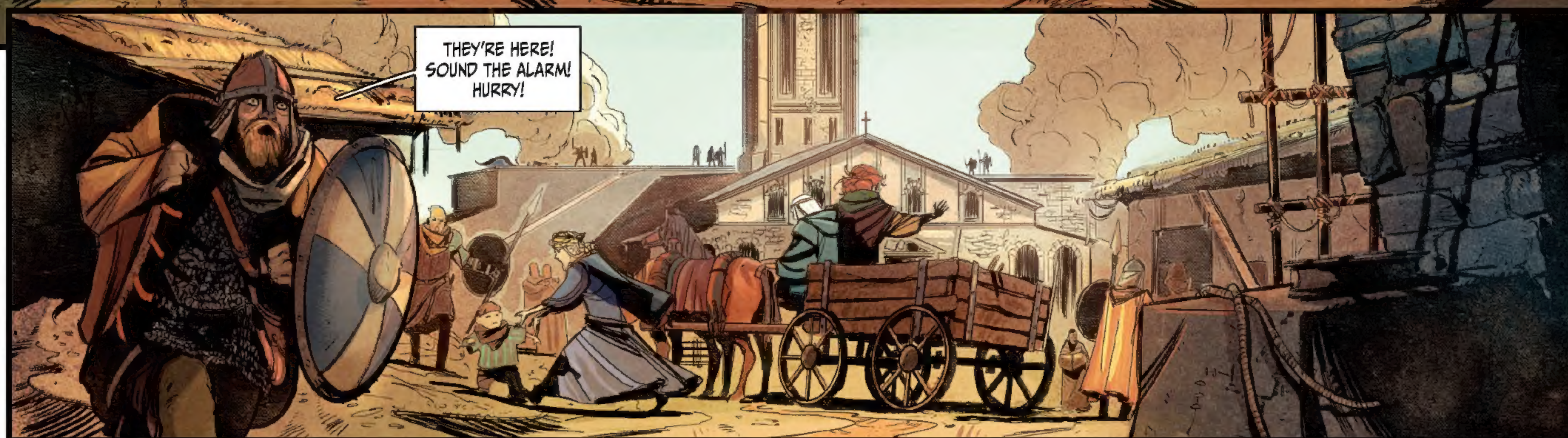
VIKINGS TRAVEL, TOO. DO YOU WISH TO DIE? TO WATCH AS BOOKS BURN?



WE'RE SAFE HERE. THE BOOKS, TOO.

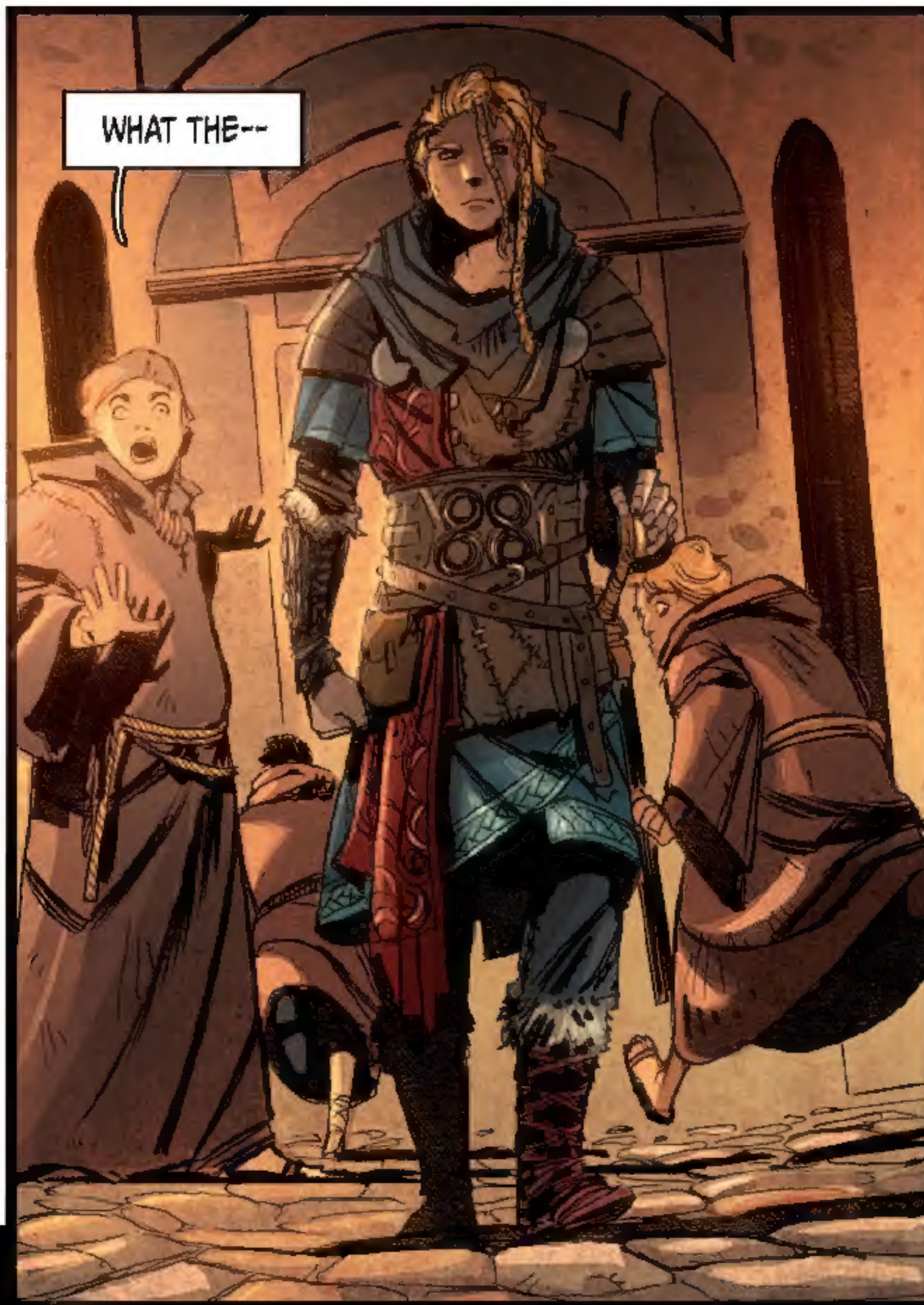
WE'RE DYING HERE. SLOWLY BUT SURELY.

SHAME.





OH, HELLO THERE...



WHAT THE--



SO THIS MUST BE...



...THE SCRIPTORIUM.

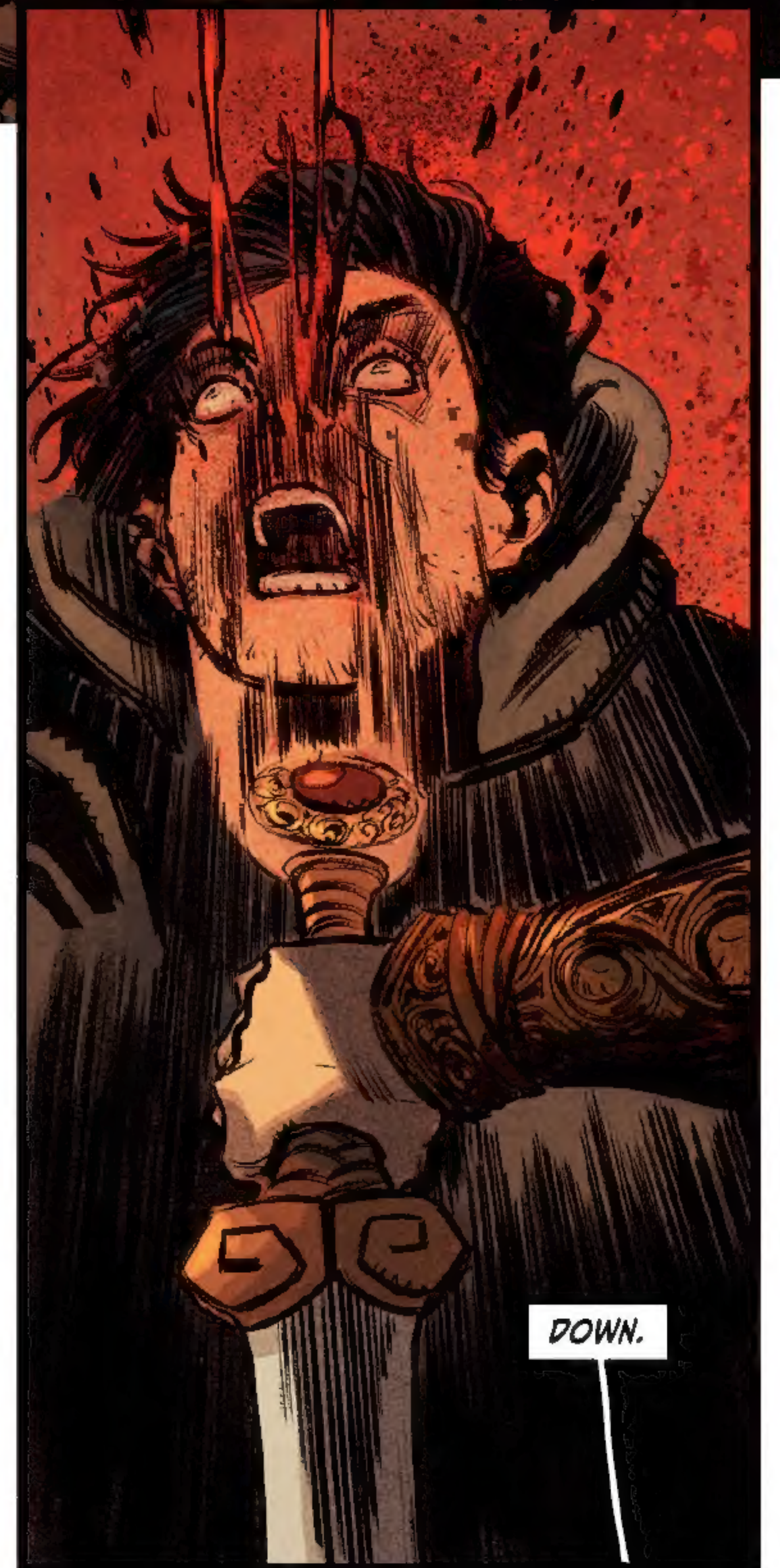
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, YOU GODLESS WOMAN?!



I'VE COME TO LOOK AT YOUR TREASURES.



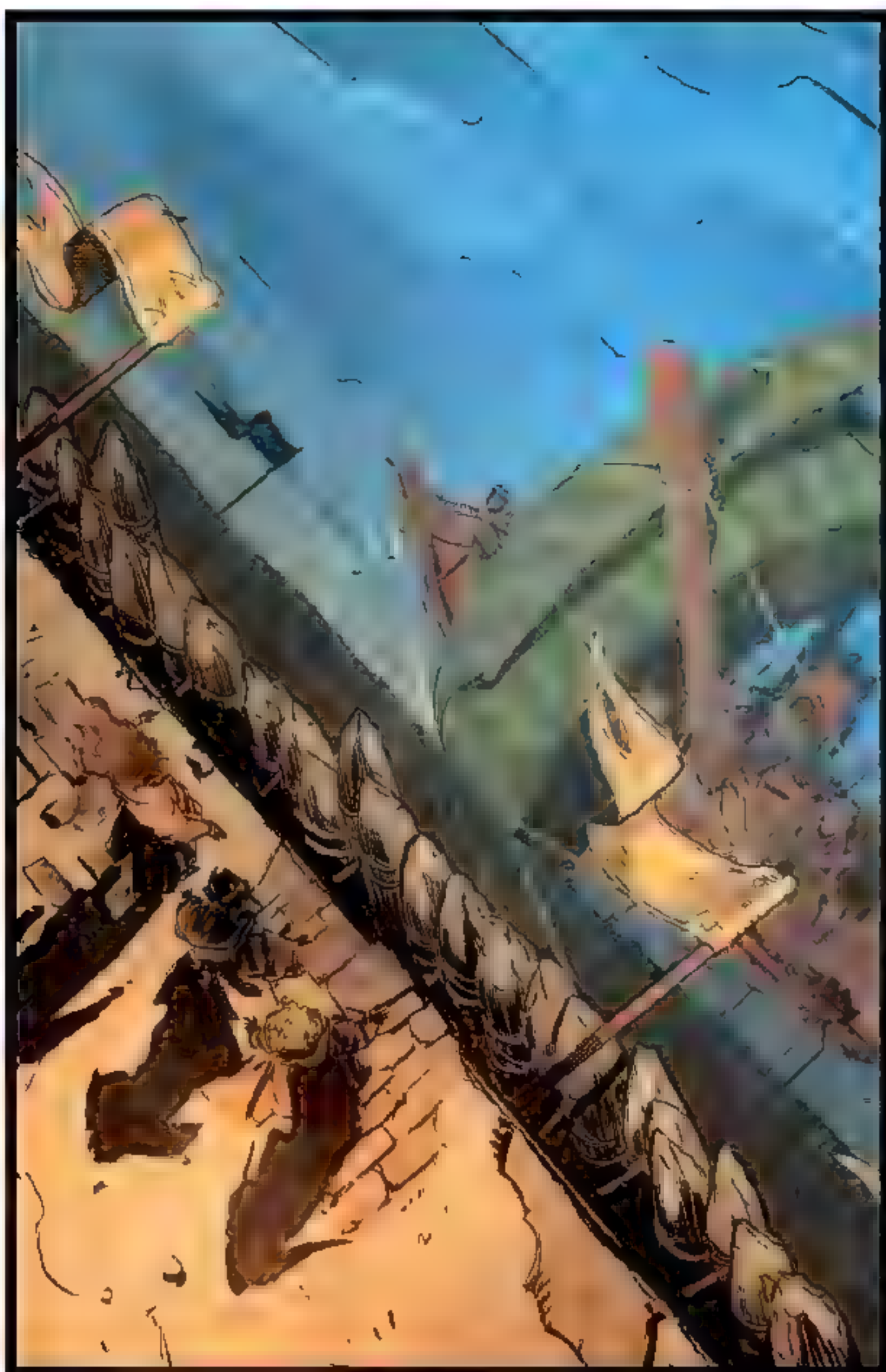
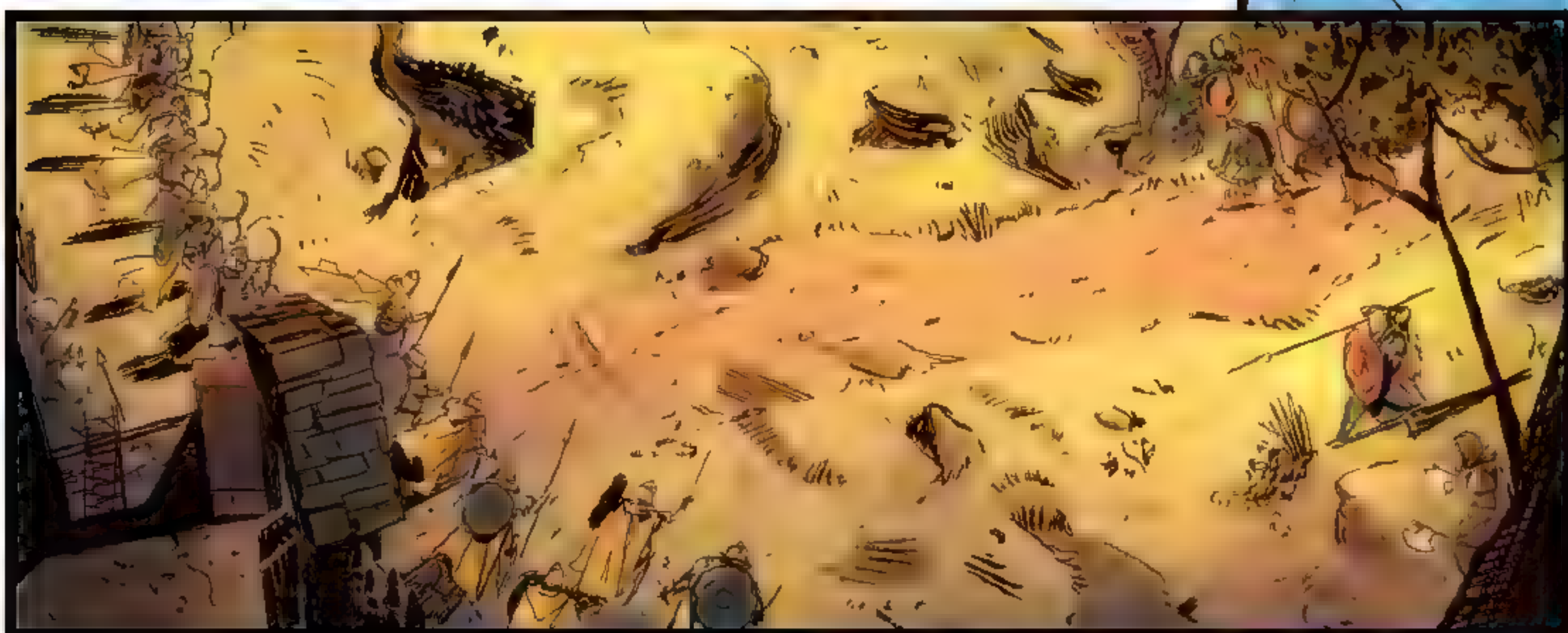
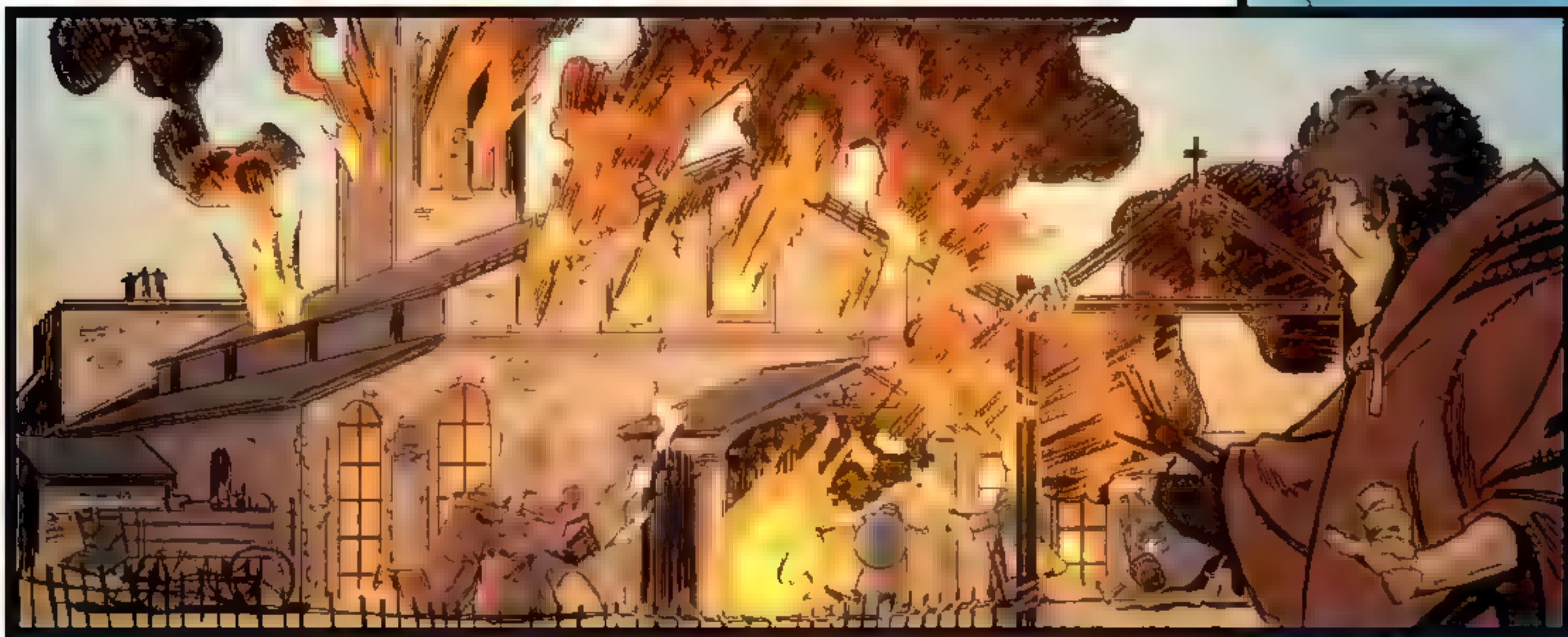
SACRILEGE! SACRILEGE!

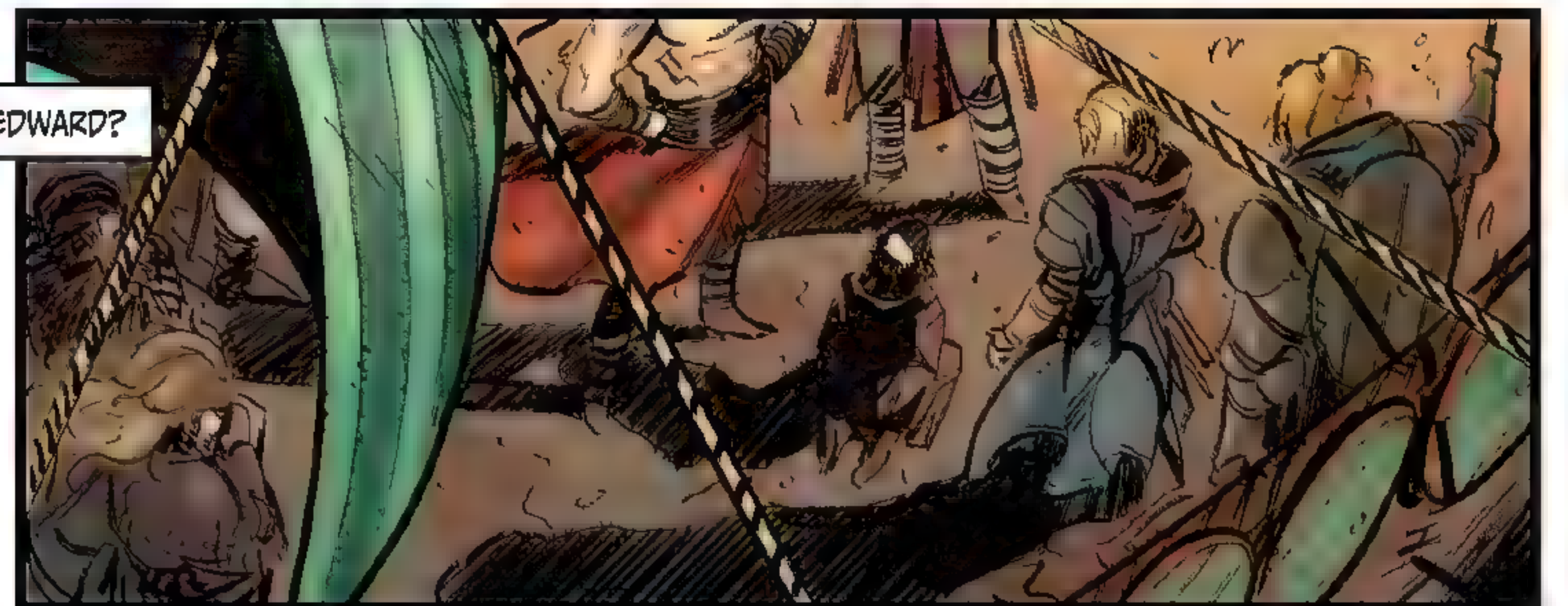
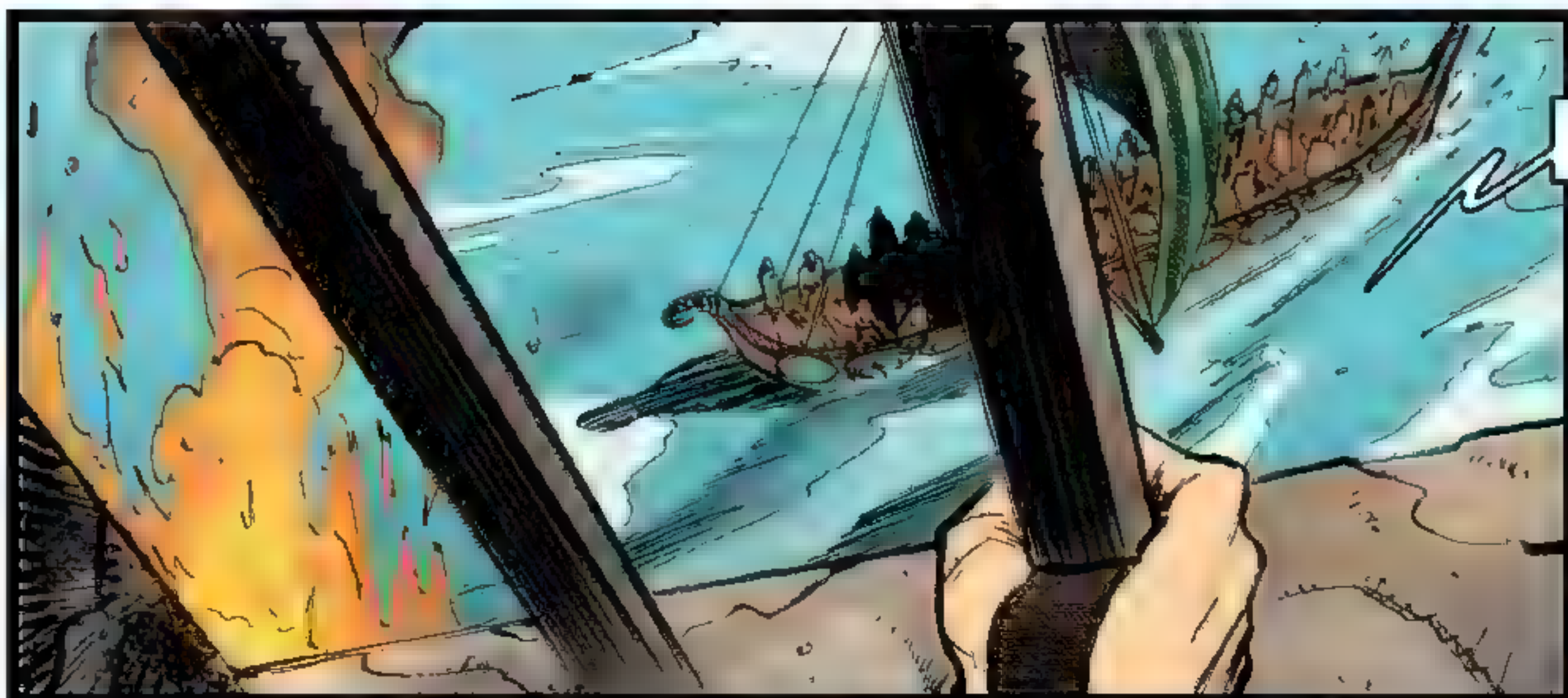
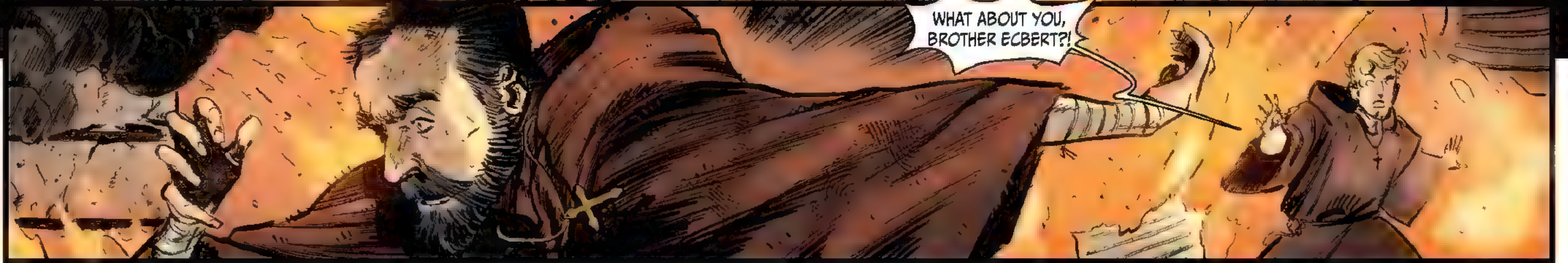


DOWN.









ONE MONTH LATER, IN RAVENSTHORPE.

GREAT WORK,
EDWARD.

IF YOU SAY SO, ECBERT...

STOP WITH THAT.

I'M NOT YOUR
BROTHER.

YOU'RE MY JAILER.
IT'S THE SAME THING.

AND HE WAS RIGHT TO
KEEP YOU LOCKED AWAY.
LOOK, EIVOR.

INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT? YOU
RARELY SEE WORK AS FINE
AS THIS, EVEN IN BAGHDAD.

MY ORDER HAS
FEW SCROLLS THIS
IMPRESSIVE.

I MUST ADMIT, IT
IS INDEED RATHER
STUNNING.

MY APOLOGIES, HYTHAM, BUT
THE MERCHANDISE HAS ARRIVED.
THE SETTLEMENT IS DRAWING
MORE PEOPLE, SOME OF
WHOM ARE RATHER UNUSUAL.
YOUR EXPERTISE IS REQUIRED.

OKAY, LET'S GO.
KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK, EDWARD!

ABOUT THE
MONK...

YES?

I CAN TELL YOU'RE IMPRESSED BY HIS GIFTS,
BUT...DON'T GET TOO ATTACHED, HYTHAM.

IF I WAS TOO DISOBEDIENT FOR
YOUR ORDER, THEN HE--

HAVING QUALITIES THAT ARE OF
INTEREST TO MY ORDER DOES NOT
MEAN YOU HAVE TO JOIN IT.

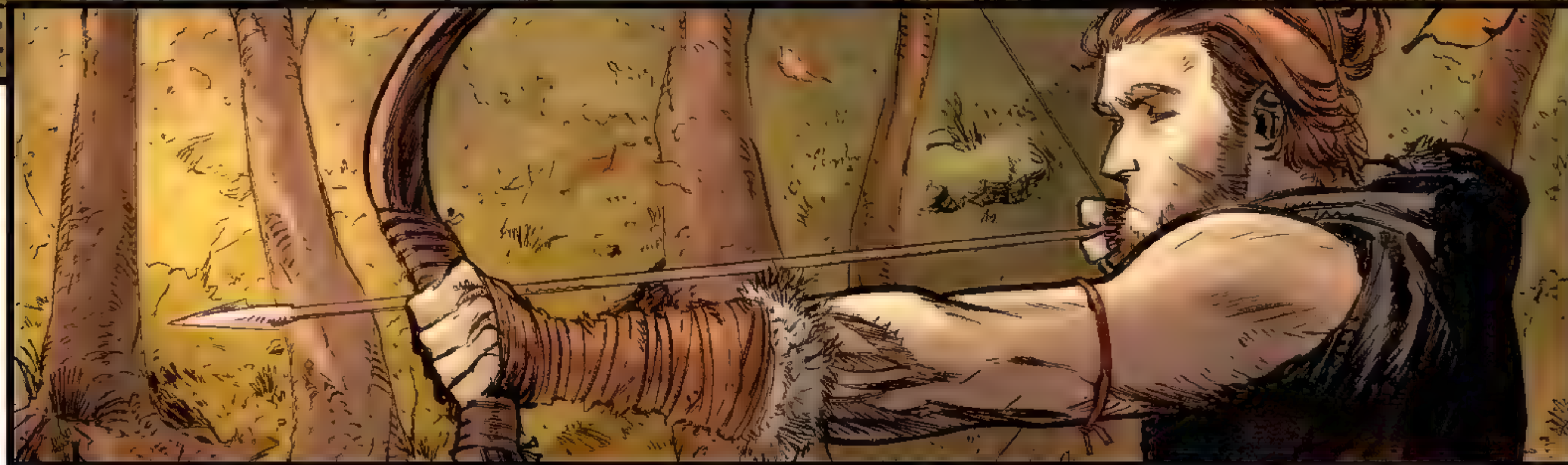
AND YOUNG
NIELS?

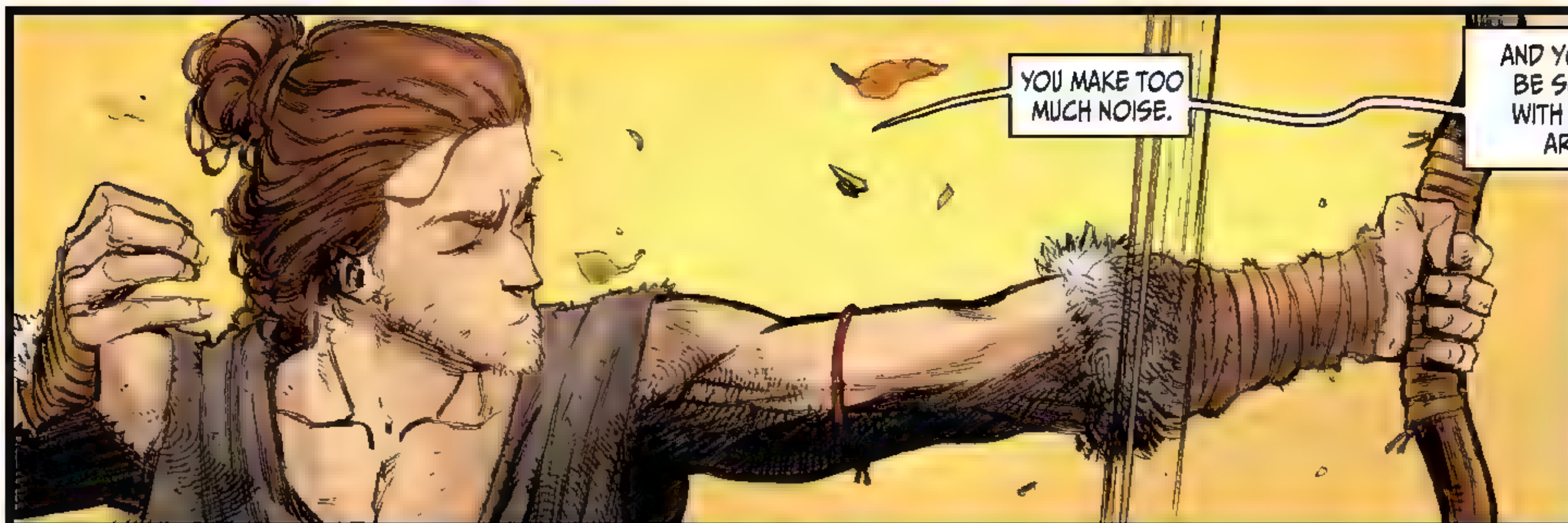
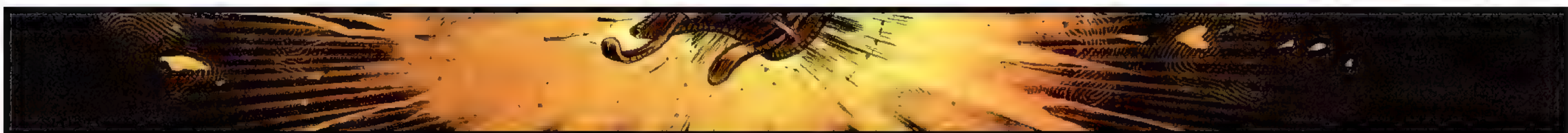
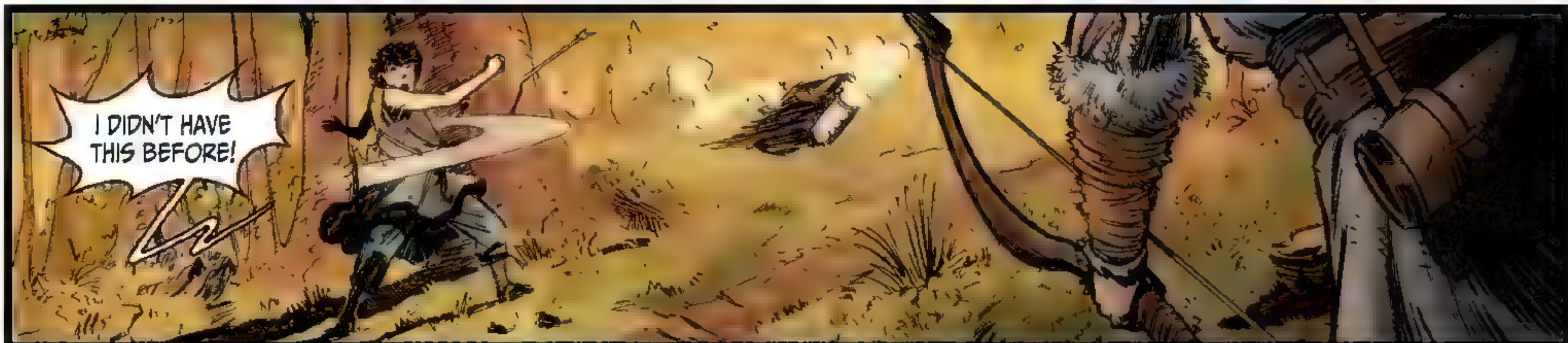
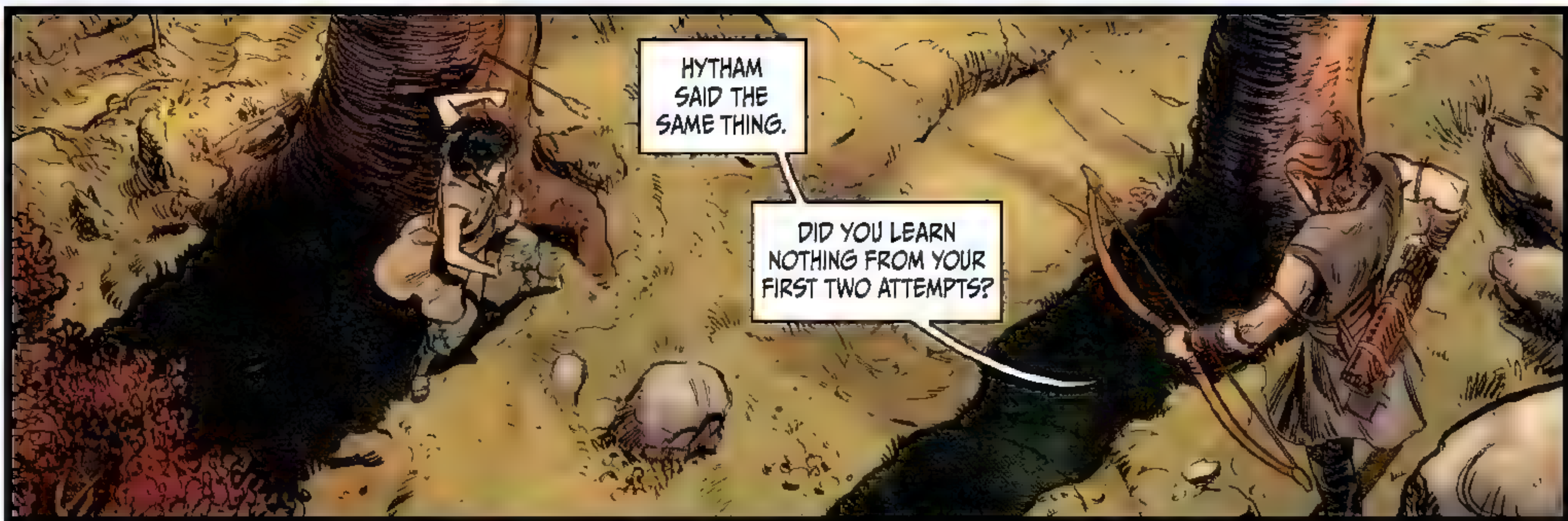
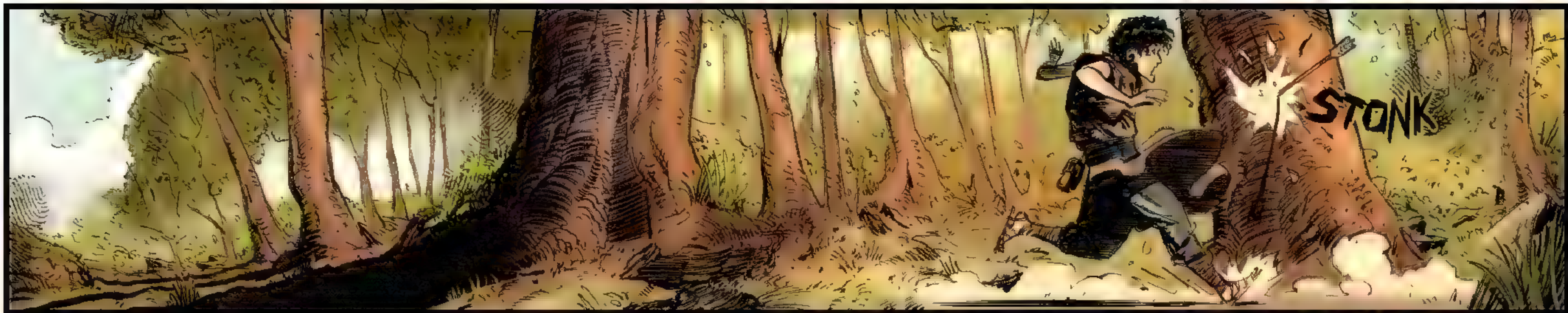
IN SOME WAYS, YOUR YOUNG HUNTER IS
ALSO OF RATHER PRODIGIOUS TALENT.

THIS SHOULD CHEER
YOU UP, EDWARD!

THE TRADERS ARRIVED WITH SOME
EXCEEDINGLY RARE PIGMENT--

AGAIN?







YOU TWO ARE PRICELESS.



WAS THAT THE SECOND TIME?

IT WAS THE MONK'S THIRD ATTEMPT.

AND THE THIRD TIME NIELS HAS HAD TO---

YOU!



WHAT DID I TELL YOU?!



YOU WANDERED OFF AGAIN!



IF YOU'RE MEANT TO BE WATCHING THE ANIMALS, DON'T GO HUNTING! IF YOU'RE MEANT TO BE SOWING SEEDS, DON'T GO HUNTING!



AND IF YOU'RE MEANT TO BE MUCKING OUT THE STABLES--

I SHOULD LEAVE YOU TO SLEEP OFF YOUR HYDROMEL, I KNOW.

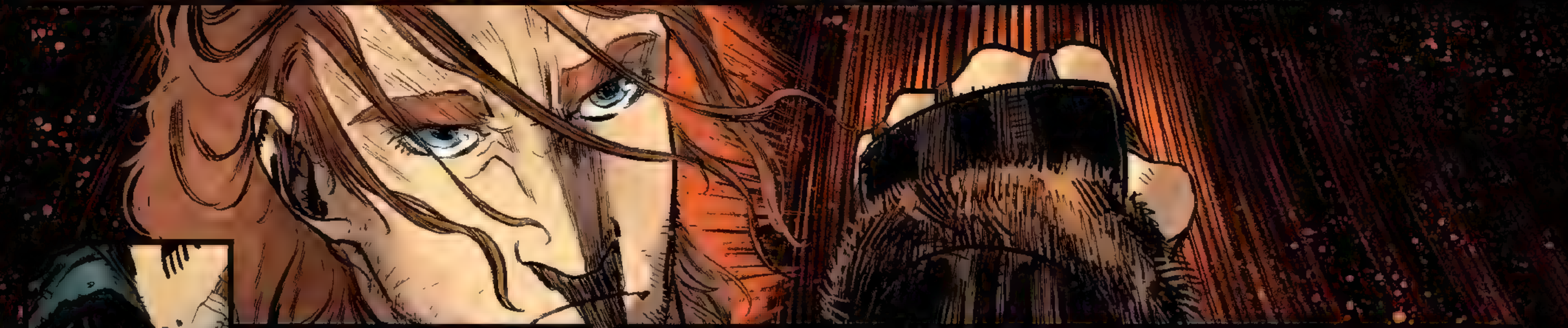


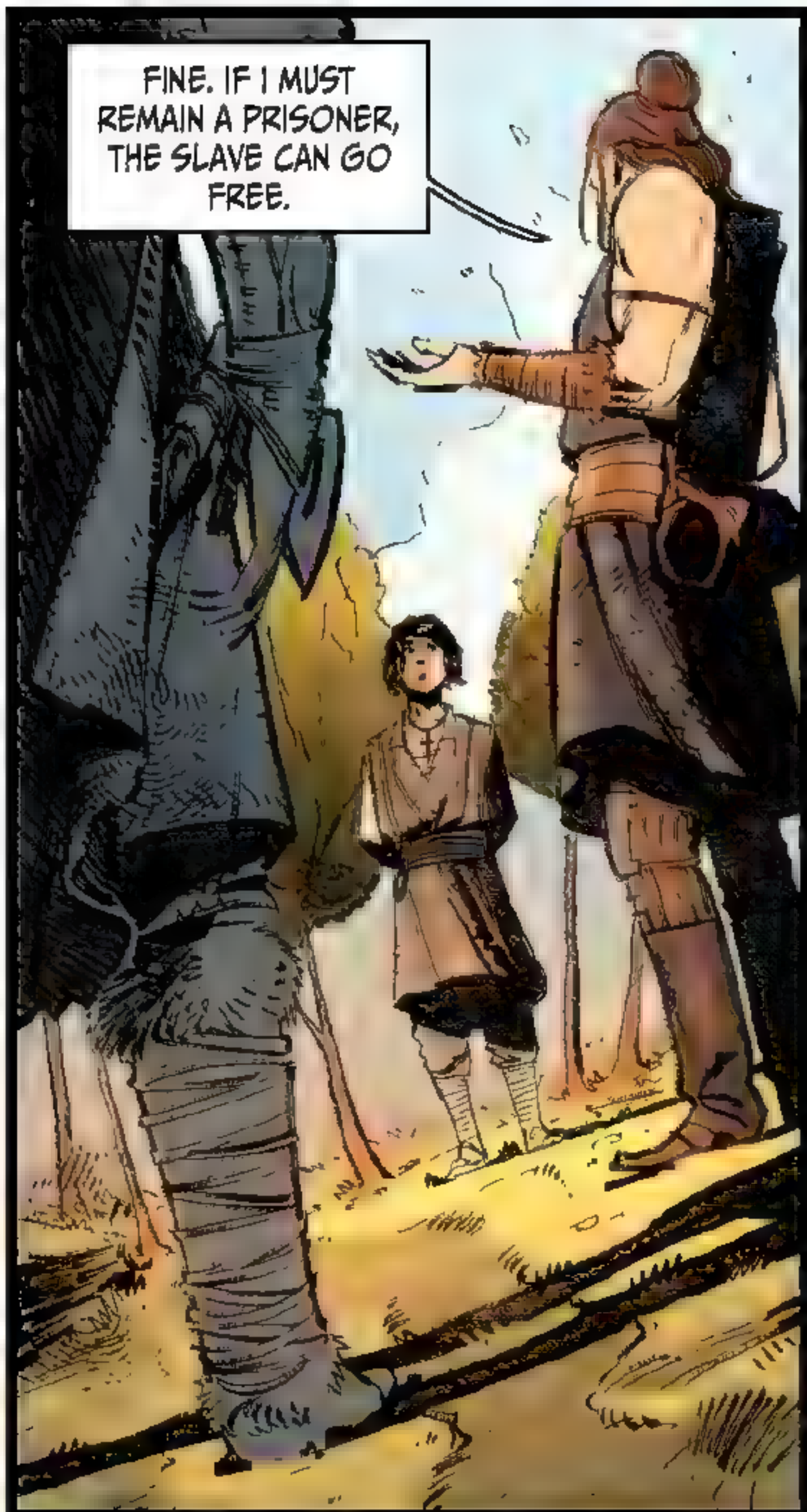
TALK TO ME LIKE THAT AGAIN AND I'LL--

FORGET ABOUT YOUR SON, GUNNAR. WE HAVE MORE PRESSING MATTERS.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?

THREE ESCAPE ATTEMPTS AND NOT A WHISPER OF PAYMENT FROM THE MONASTERY. HE'S OF NO USE TO US. WORSE, HE'S MAKING US LOOK WEAK.





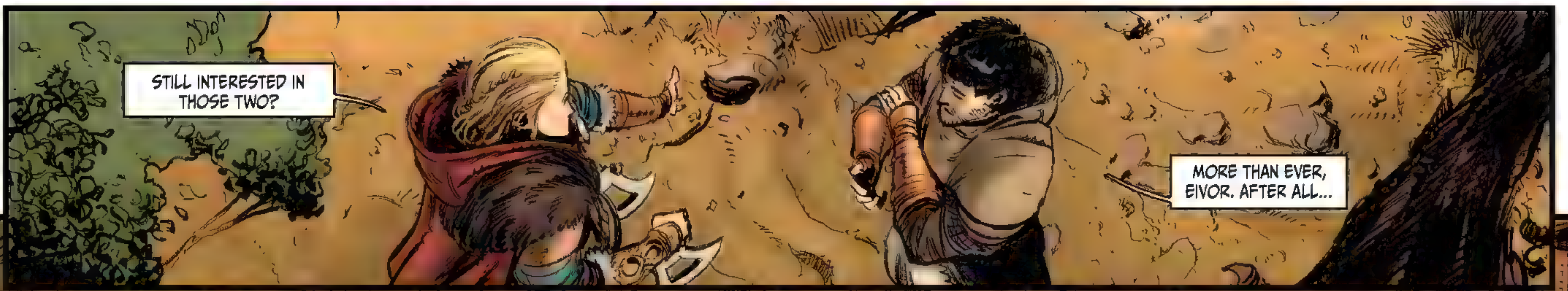
FINE. IF I MUST
REMAIN A PRISONER,
THE SLAVE CAN GO
FREE.



AFTER ALL, IT'S
MY DECISION.



THAT'S WHAT OUR JARL
SAID, AND EVEN MY
FATHER MUST OBEY HER.



STILL INTERESTED IN
THOSE TWO?

MORE THAN EVER,
EIVOR. AFTER ALL...



...RAVENSTHORPE WASN'T
BUILT IN ONE DAY, RIGHT?

YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO
GO BACK? YOU DIDN'T SEEM
HAPPY AT THE MONASTERY.



I NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHY
MY BROTHER DIDN'T DEMAND
MY RETURN. I'LL SHOVE HIS
CROSS DOWN HIS THROAT.



IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, COME FIND
ME. MY ORDER COULD USE YOUR GIFTS.
I DON'T SEE YOU JOINING US, BUT YOU
ENJOY LEARNING PERHAPS MORE THAN
YOU REALIZE. CERTAIN SECRETS MAY BE
OPEN TO YOU IF YOU HELP US.



SECRETS LIKE YOUR
DOCUMENTS ON THE---
WHAT DID YOU CALL
THEM? THE ISU?



YOU FOUND THEM?!

BUT THEY WERE
HIDDEN--



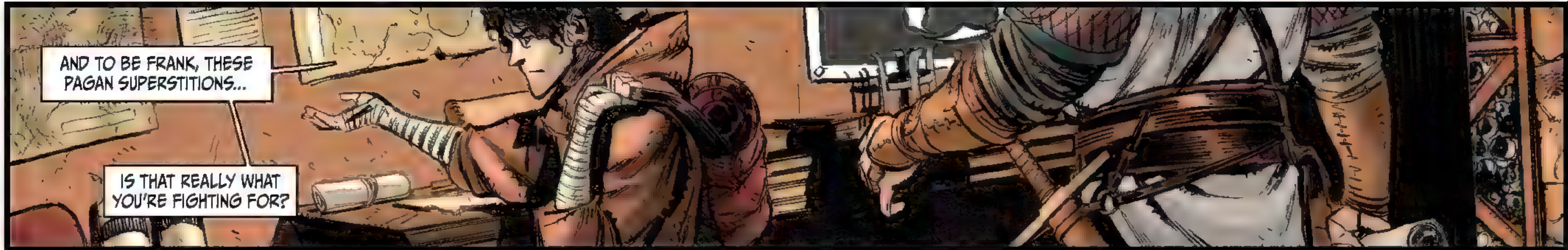
BEHIND YOUR BOOKSHELF,
WHICH CAN BE MOVED BY
PULLING ON THIS FAKE
METAL SCROLL.

I'VE SEARCHED JUST ABOUT
THE ENTIRE ROOM. YOU WERE
AWAY A LOT, HYTHAM.



AND YOU DIDN'T
STEAL ANYTHING?!

OF COURSE NOT. I'M A
RUNAWAY, NOT A THIEF.



AND TO BE FRANK, THESE
PAGAN SUPERSTITIONS...

IS THAT REALLY WHAT
YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR?



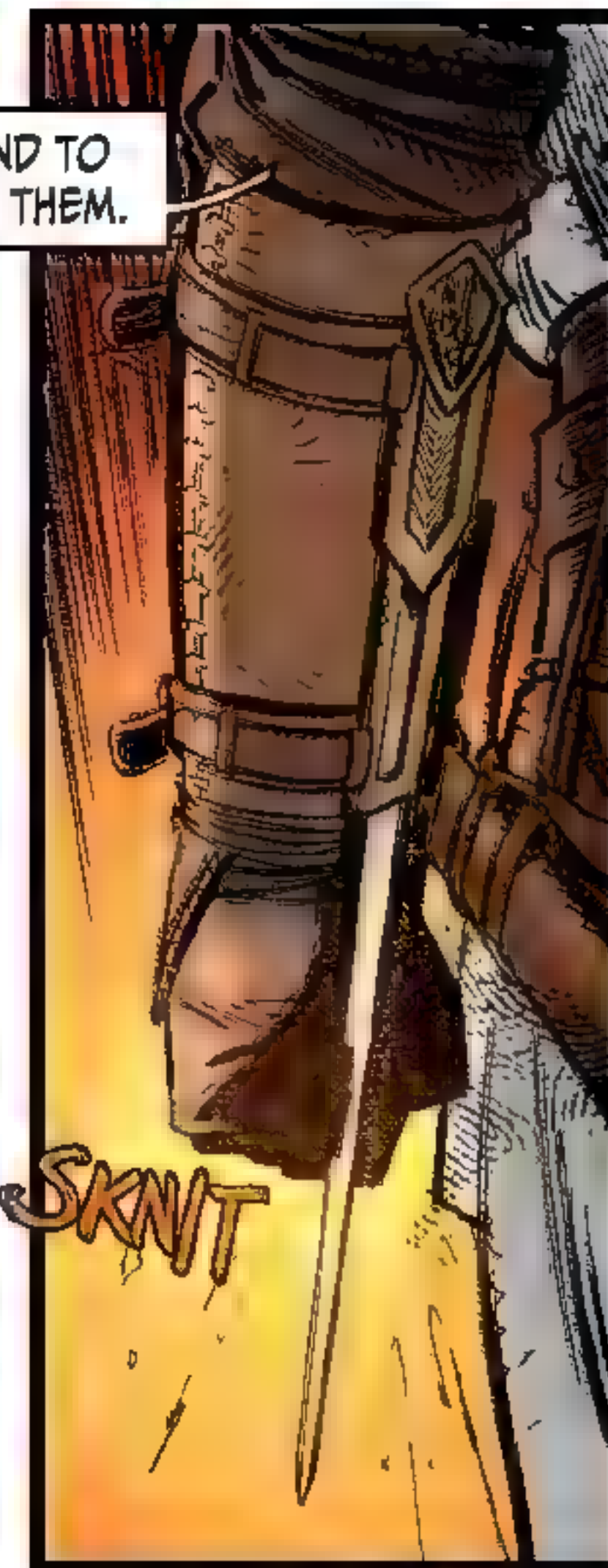
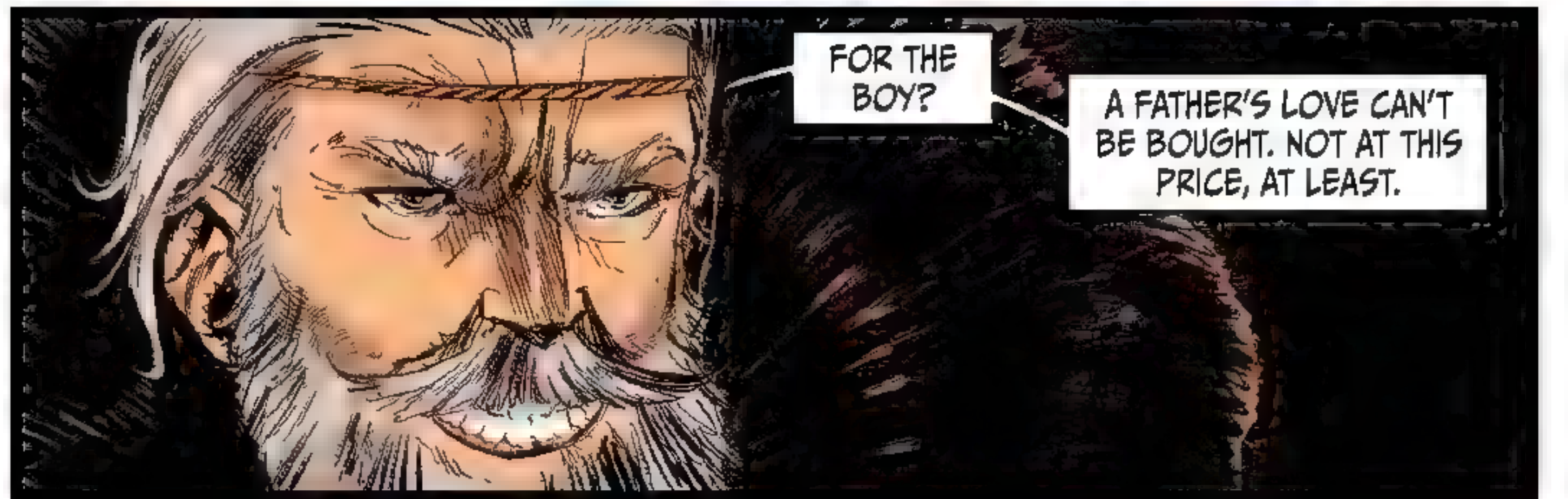
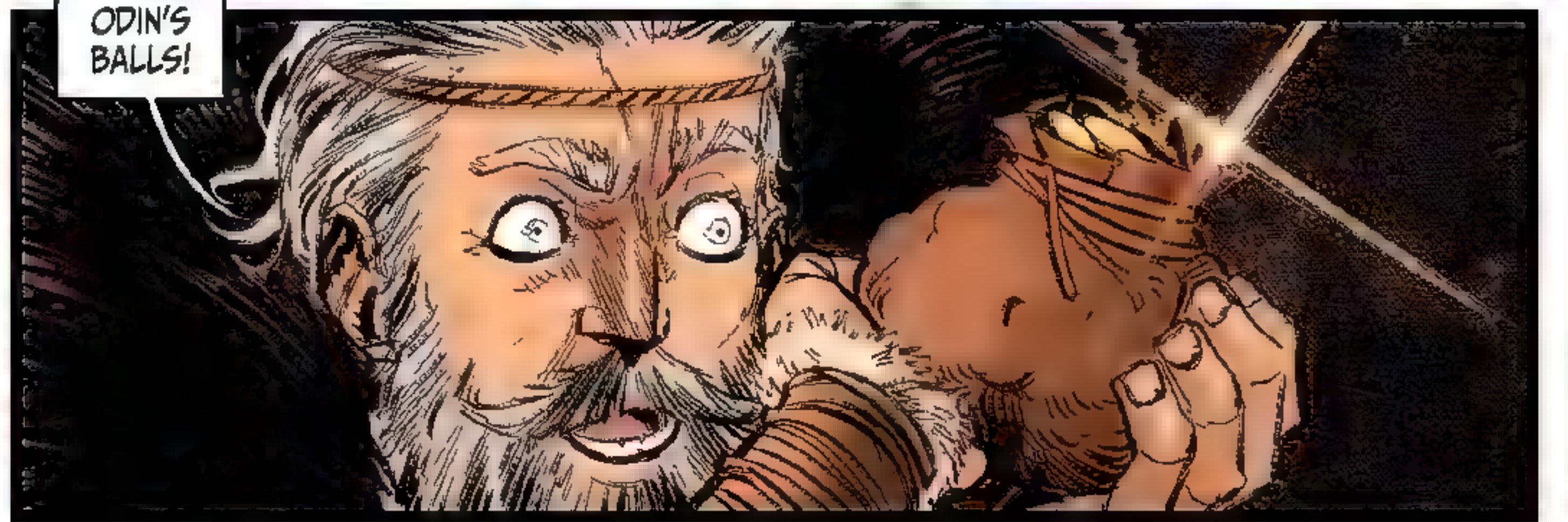
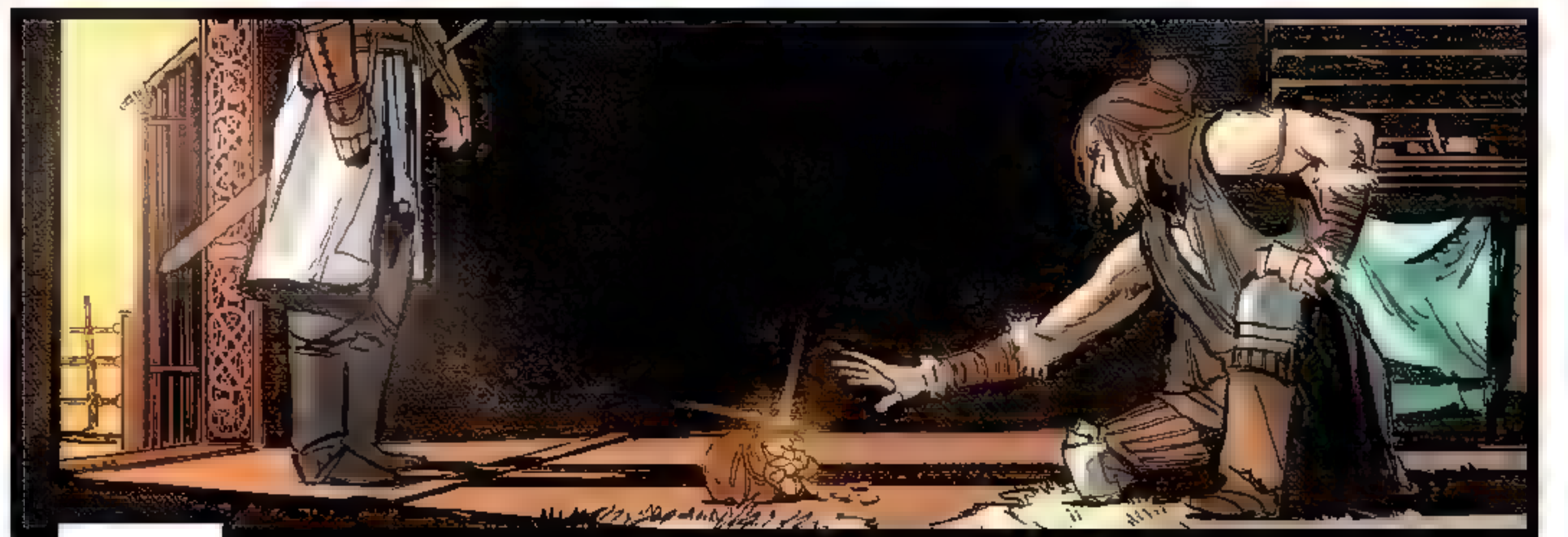
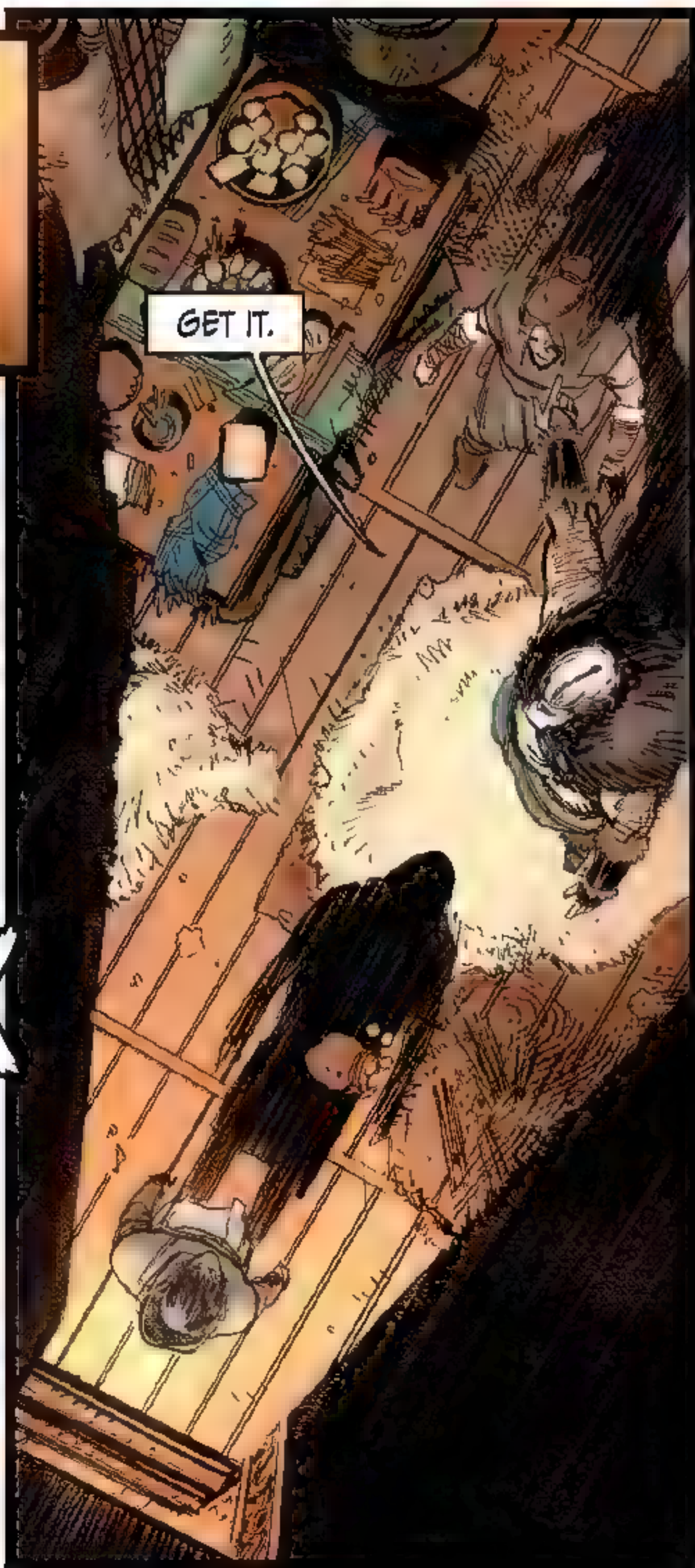
YOU'VE BEEN GOOD
TO ME, HYTHAM. SORRY
FOR MAKING THINGS
DIFFICULT FOR YOU...

...BUT EVOR'S RIGHT.
ALL ORDERS HAVE
RULES. AND, WELL...

...I HATE RULES.



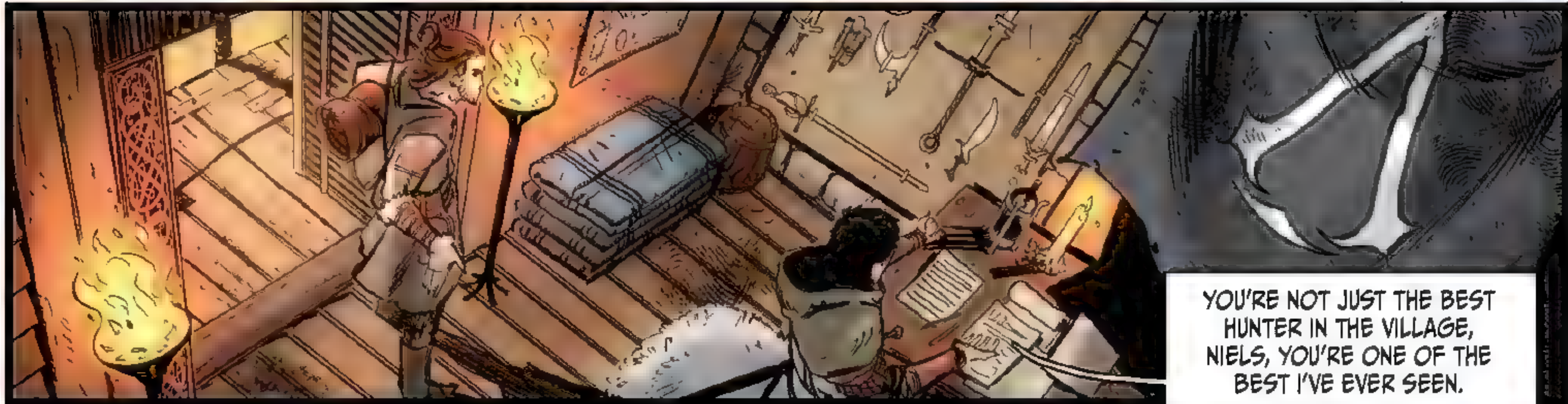
BYE, HYTHAM.



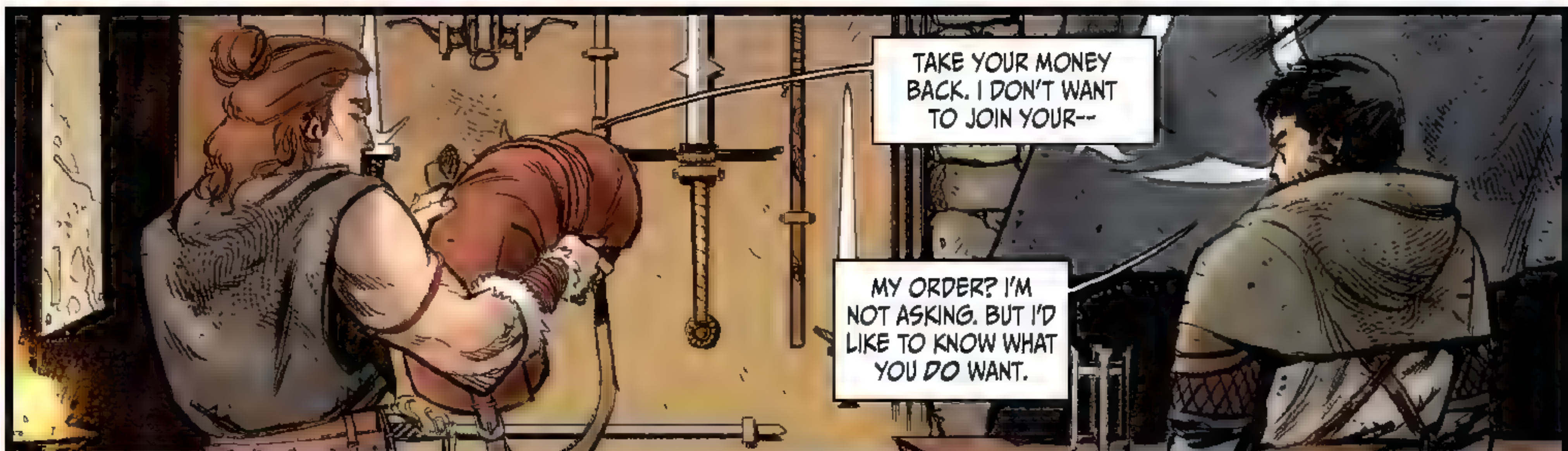


WHY ME? WASN'T IT THE MONK YOU WANTED?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAUGHT HIM. ALONG WITH LOTS OF OTHER PREY...



YOU'RE NOT JUST THE BEST HUNTER IN THE VILLAGE, NIELS, YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN.



TAKE YOUR MONEY BACK. I DON'T WANT TO JOIN YOUR--

MY ORDER? I'M NOT ASKING. BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU DO WANT.



I SIMPLY WISH TO WRITE MY SAGA, LIKE ALL VIKINGS.

BUT...BY HUNTING.



WHAT PERFECT TIMING.



THERE ARE PREY OTHER THAN BEASTS OF THE LAND, AND HUNTING GROUNDS OTHER THAN FORESTS.

YOU MEAN...KILLING PEOPLE?



KILLING TYRANTS.

LIKE THE ONE WHOSE LEDGER YOU'RE HOLDING.



THE NUMBERS REPRESENT HIS SLAVES.

I CAN'T READ...AND I DON'T ENJOY KILLING.



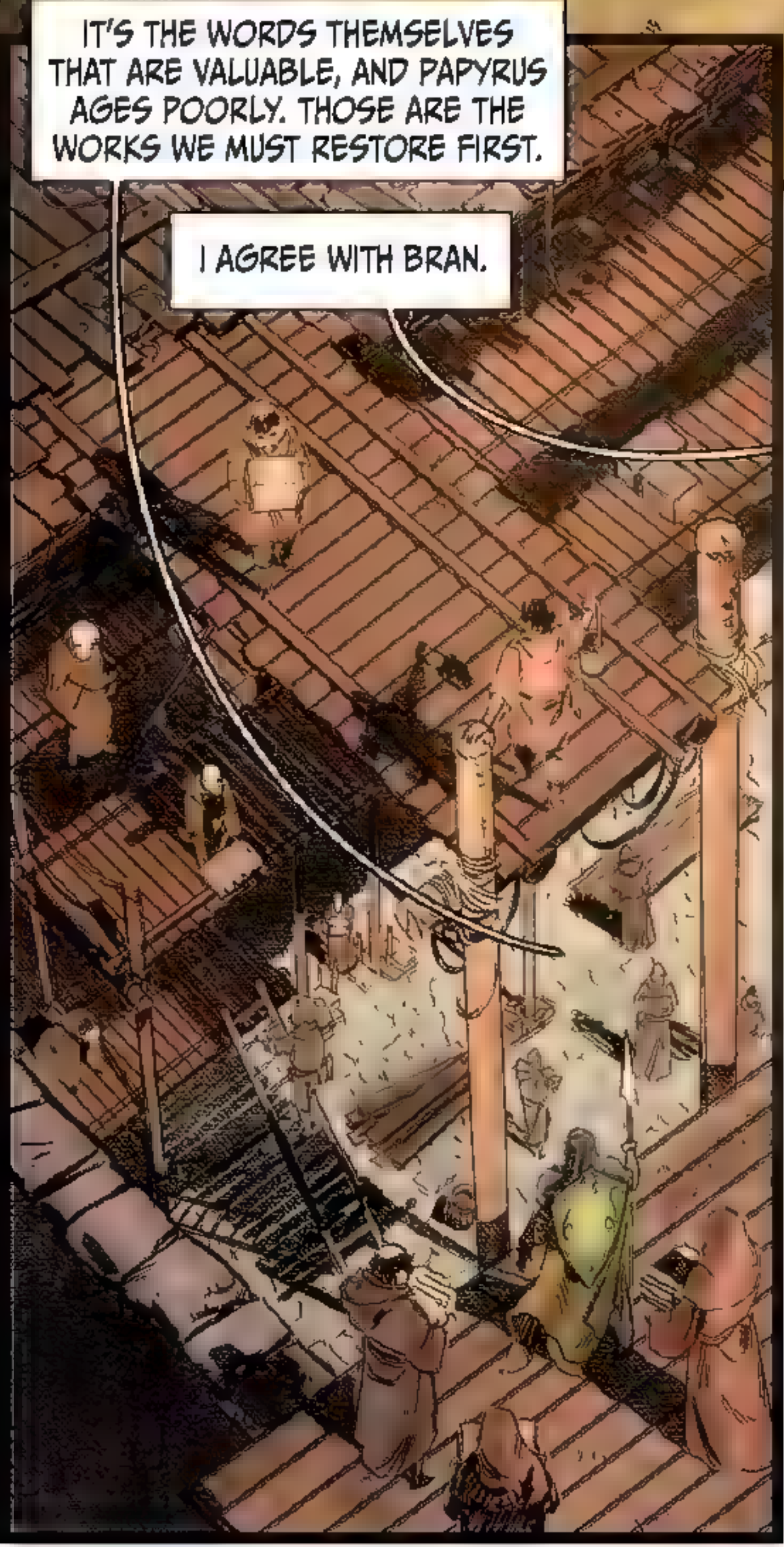
I KNOW. I SAW YOU SPARE EDWARD.

A HUNTER WHO ONLY KILLS WHEN NECESSARY.

YOU'RE PERFECT FOR OUR ORDER, NIELS.



BROTHER BRAN, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE CODICES FIRST. THEY'RE THE WORKS OF THE GREATEST VALUE.

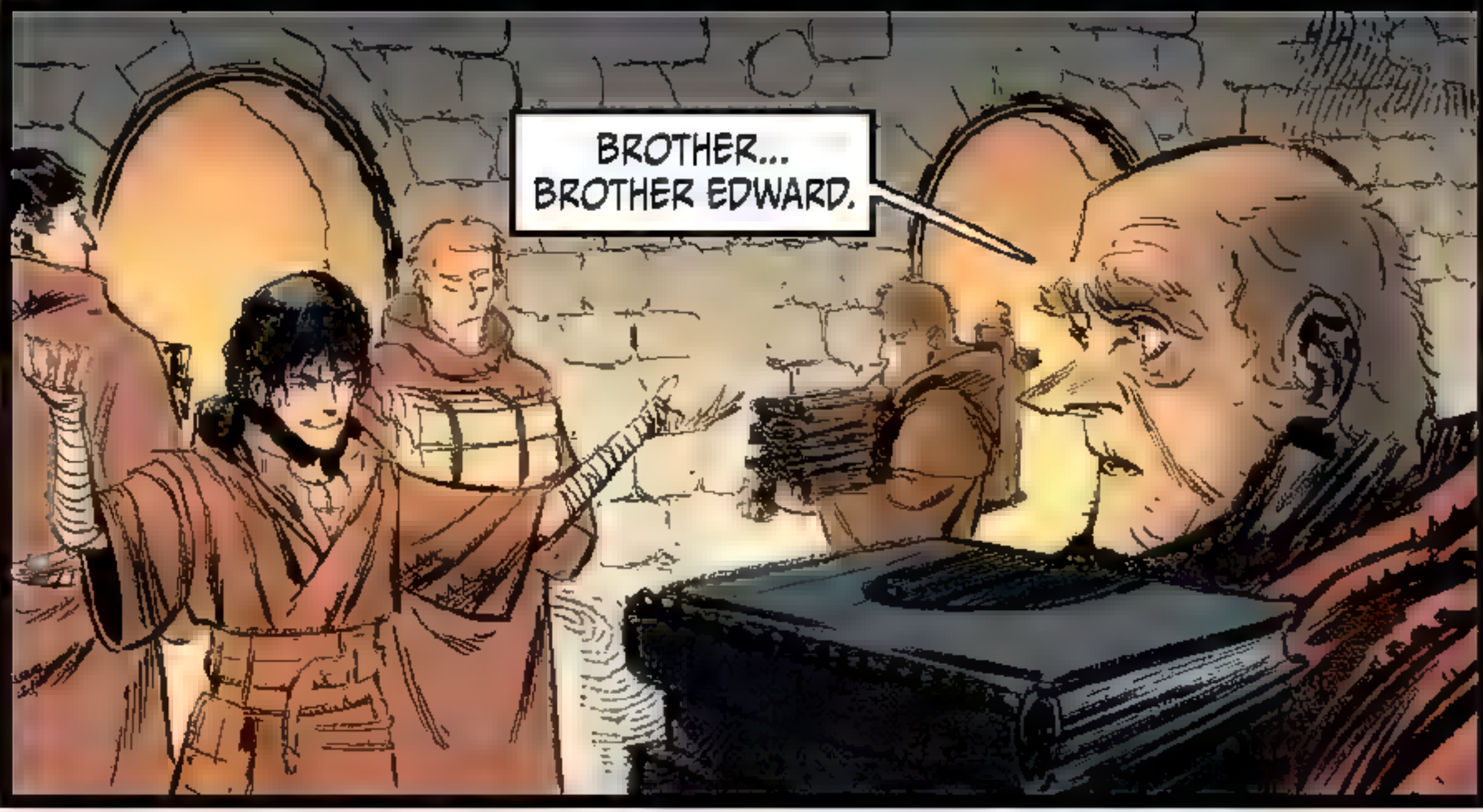


IT'S THE WORDS THEMSELVES THAT ARE VALUABLE, AND PAPYRUS AGES POORLY. THOSE ARE THE WORKS WE MUST RESTORE FIRST.

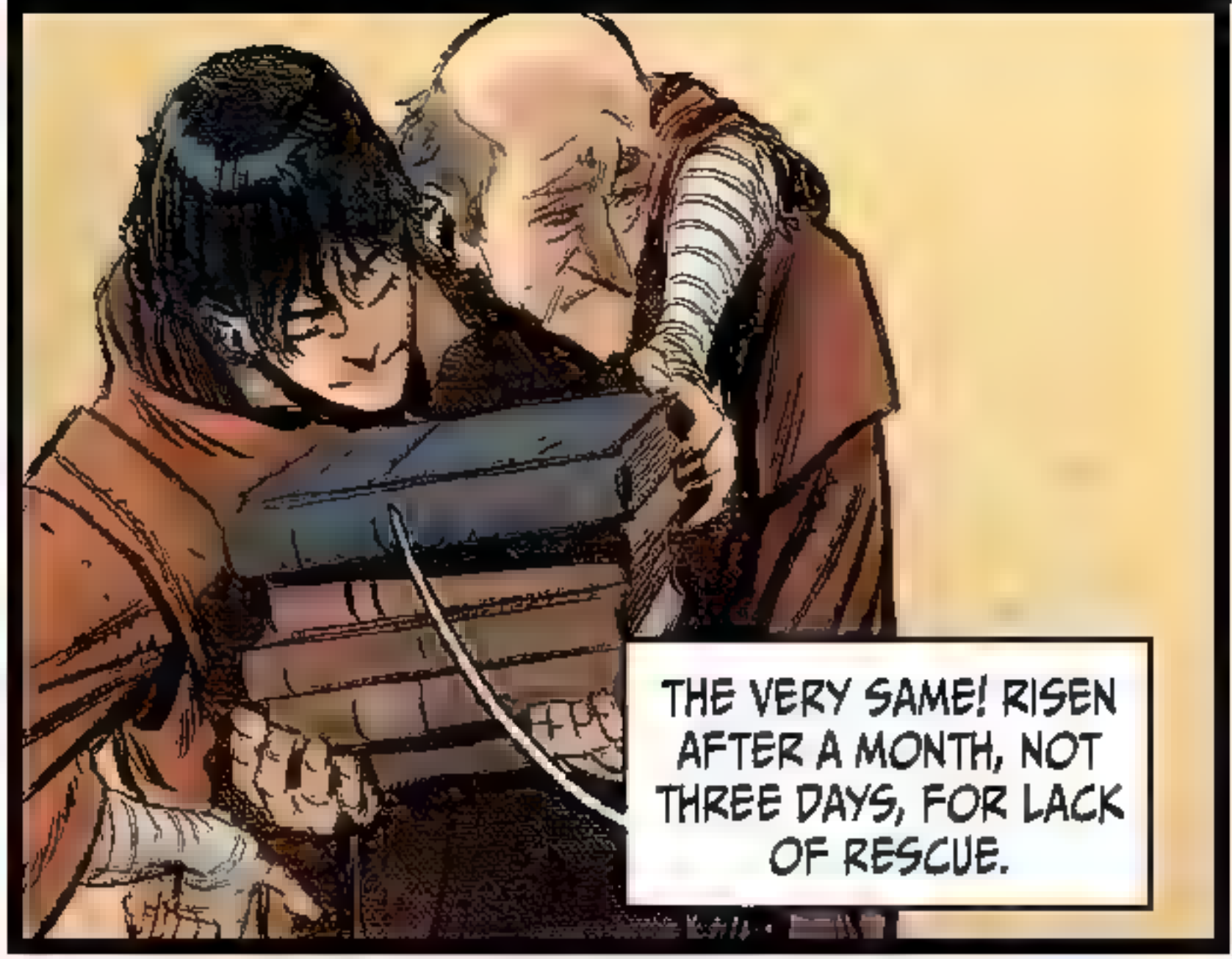
I AGREE WITH BRAN.



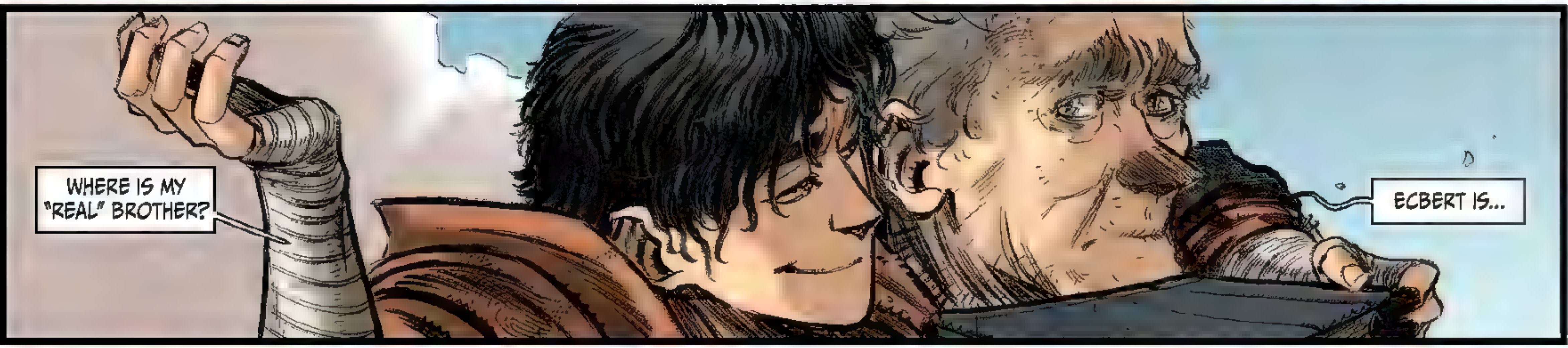
THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL BROTHER!



BROTHER... BROTHER EDWARD.



THE VERY SAME! RISEN AFTER A MONTH, NOT THREE DAYS, FOR LACK OF RESCUE.



WHERE IS MY "REAL" BROTHER?

ECBERT IS...



HA, "ECBERT"!

HAS A NAME EVER RHYMED SO WELL WITH JUDAS?!



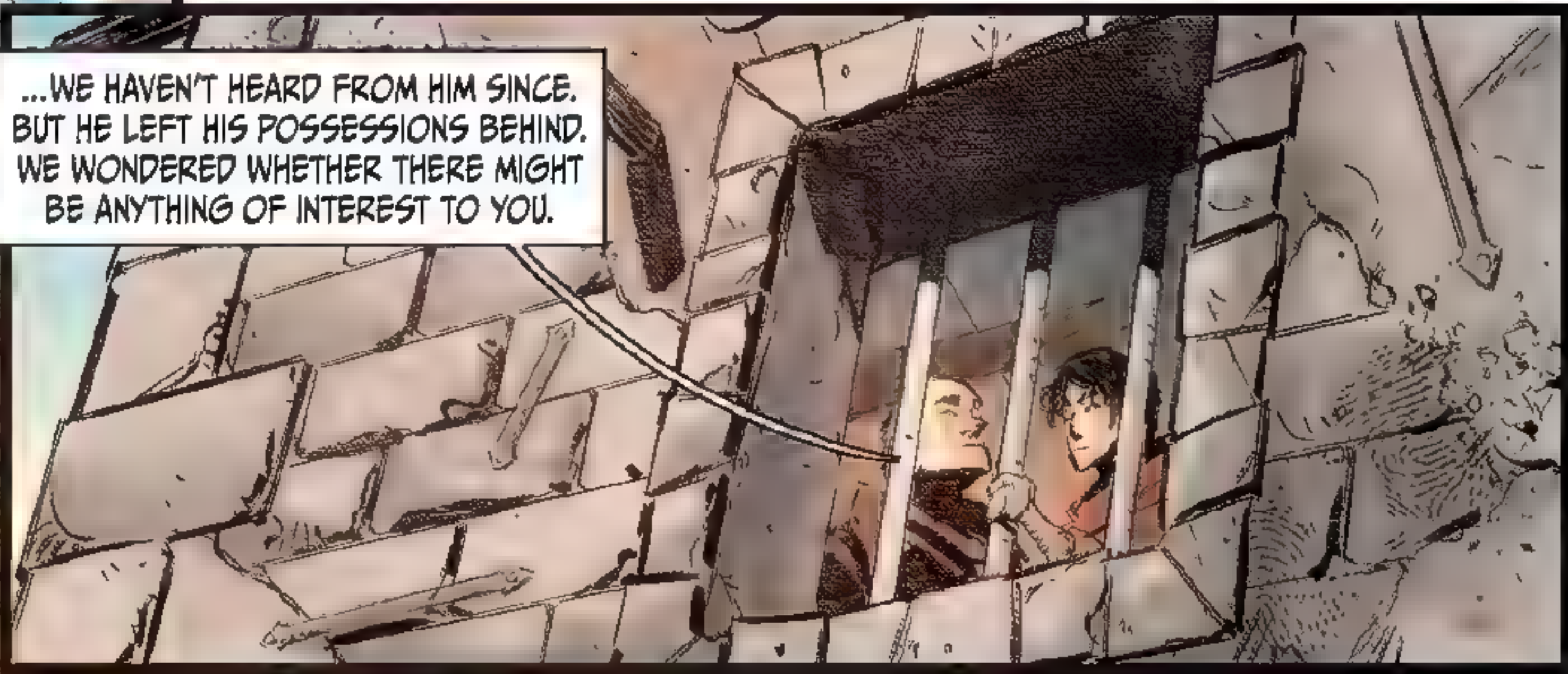
ECBERT IS MISSING.



WHAT?



AFTER YOU WERE TAKEN, HE WENT TO SEEK HELP, AND...



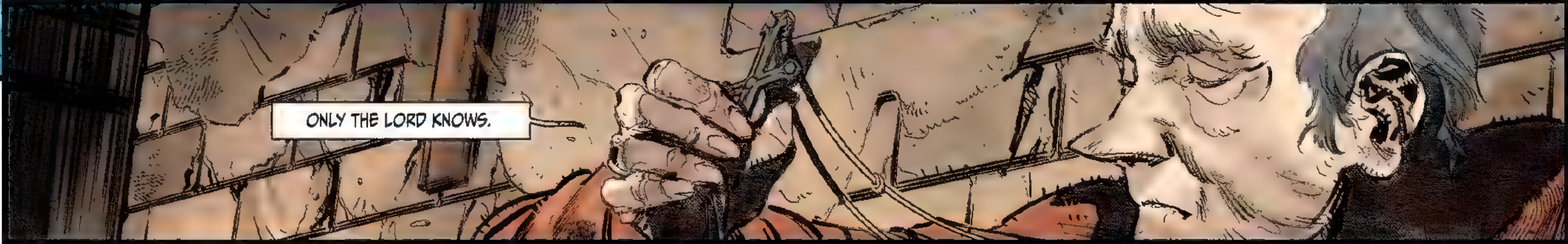
...WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE. BUT HE LEFT HIS POSSESSIONS BEHIND. WE WONDERED WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANYTHING OF INTEREST TO YOU.



INCOMPREHENSIBLE SCROLLS, MOLDY REED PENS, AND A DUSTY LECTERN.



DIDN'T HE SAY WHERE HE WAS GOING? WHO DID HE WISH TO ASK FOR HELP?

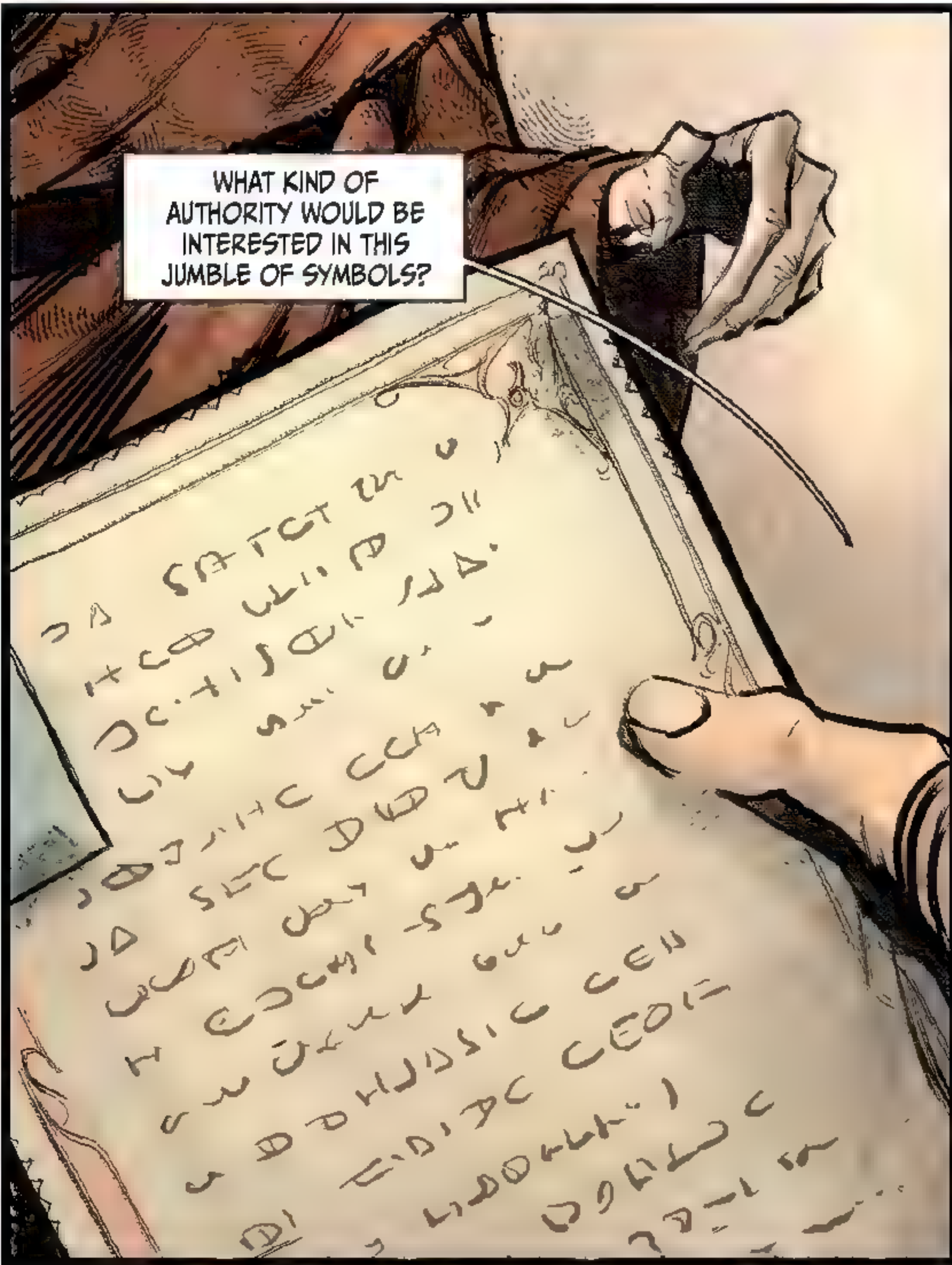


ONLY THE LORD KNOWS.



HE SAID THAT SOMEONE AT THE VERY TOP HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THESE MESSAGES. HE WISHED TO MAKE A DEAL.

THESE MESSAGES?

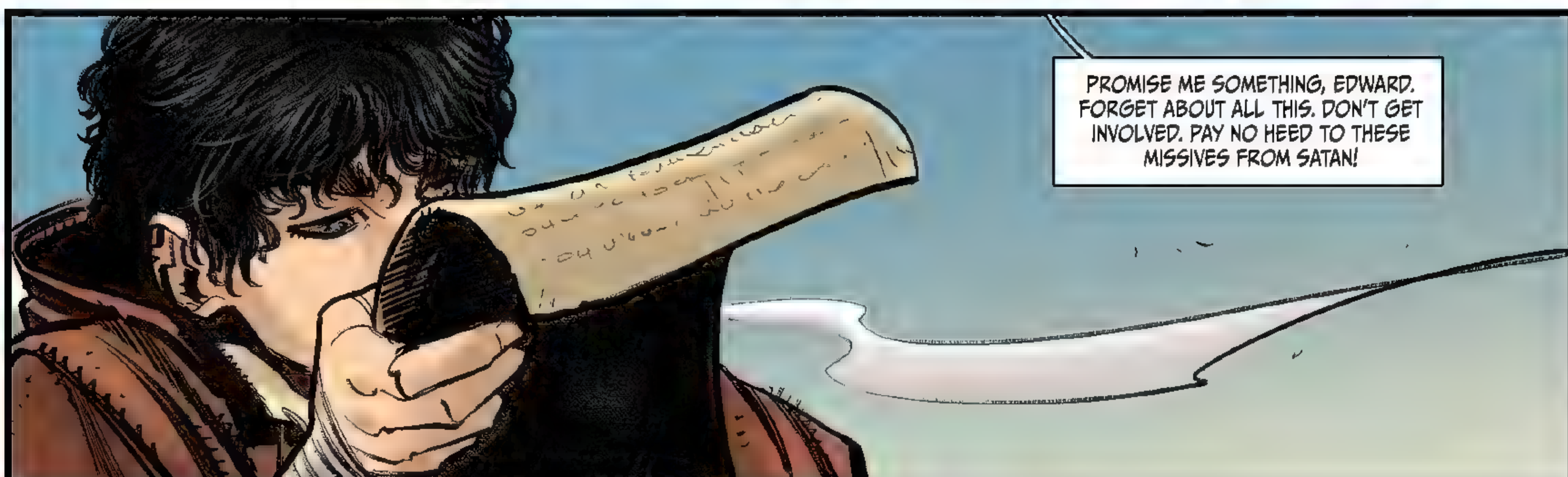
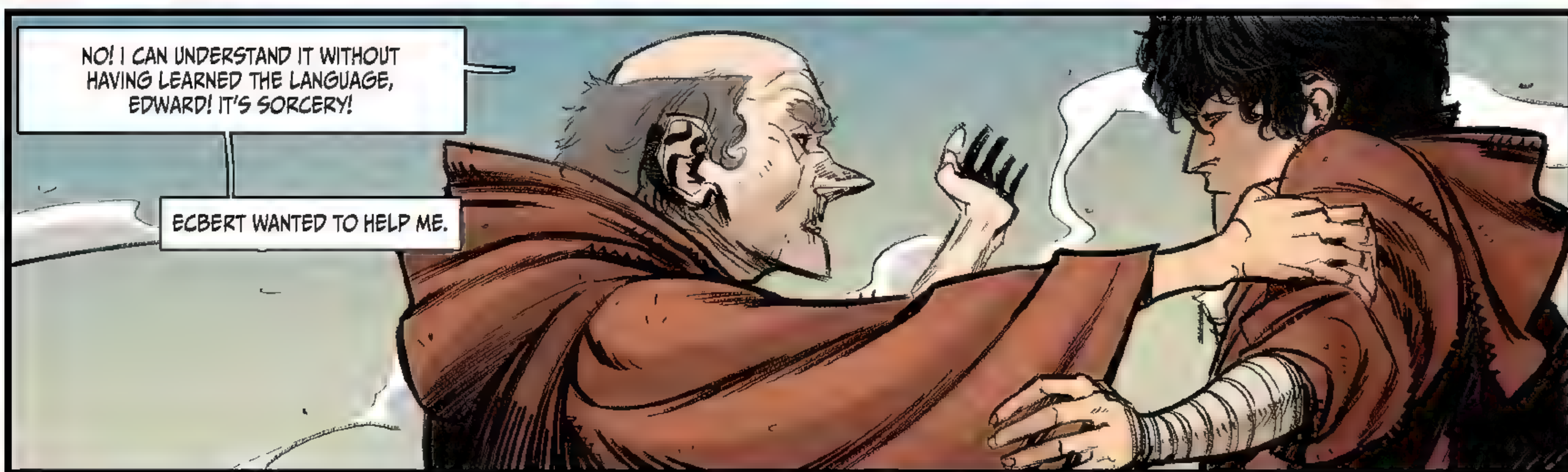
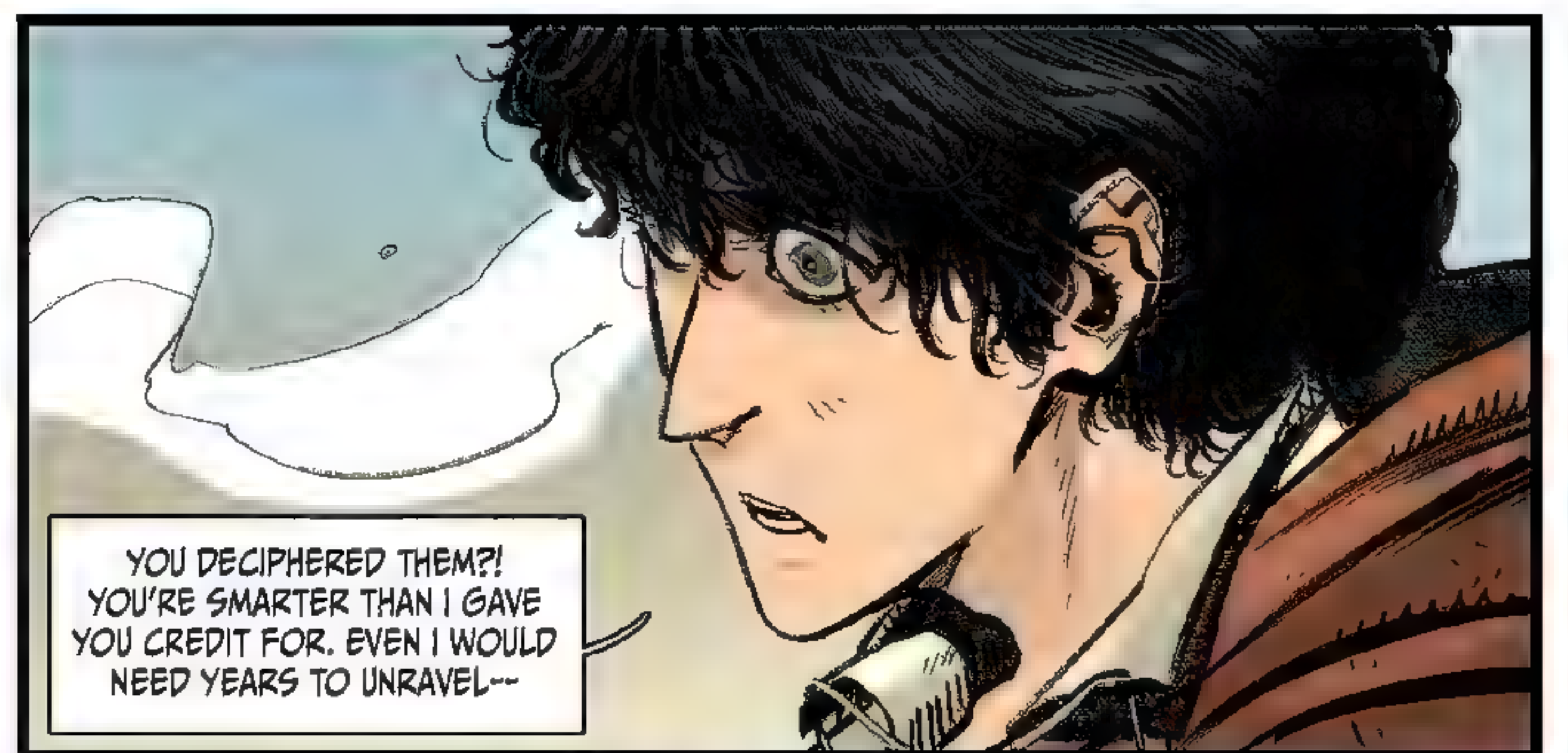
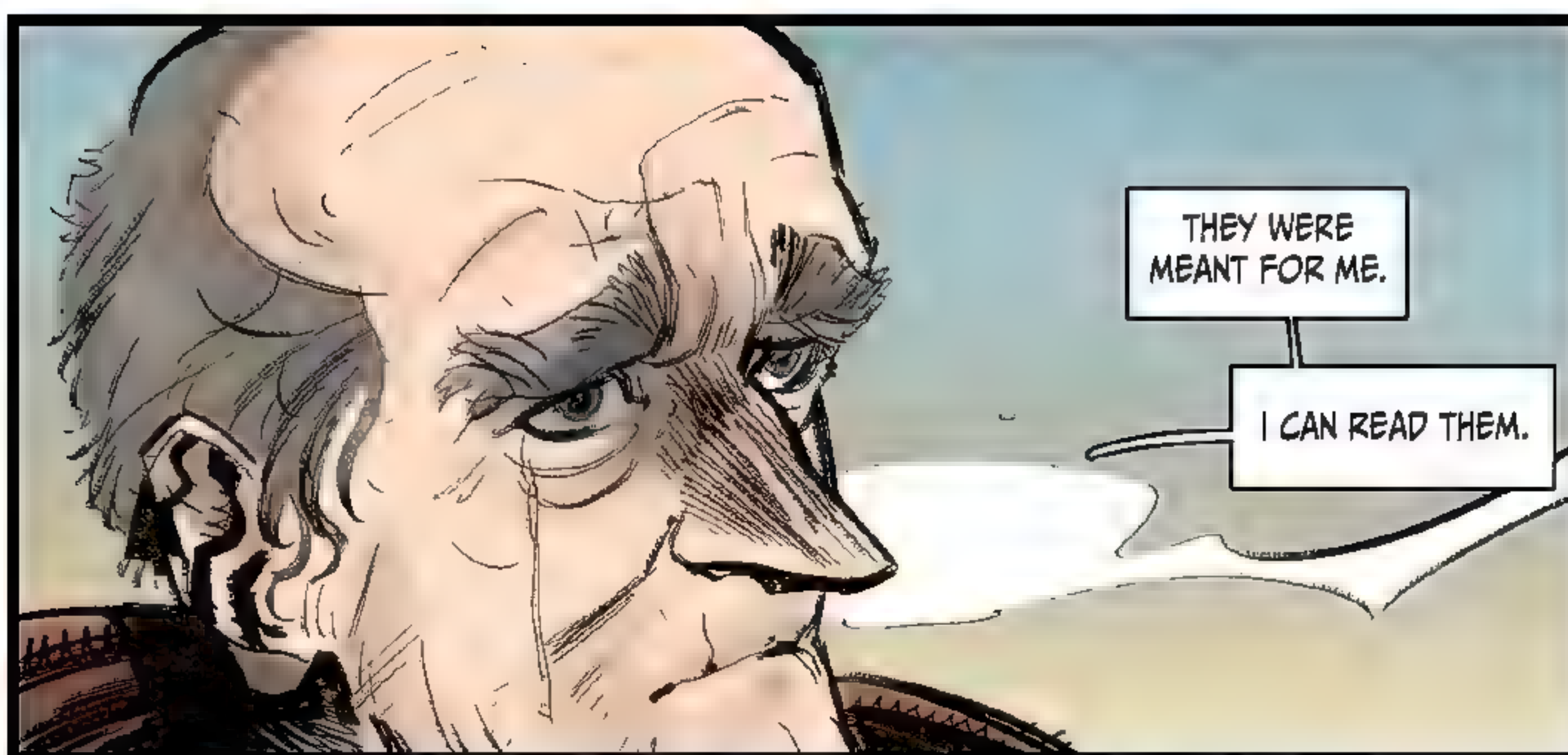
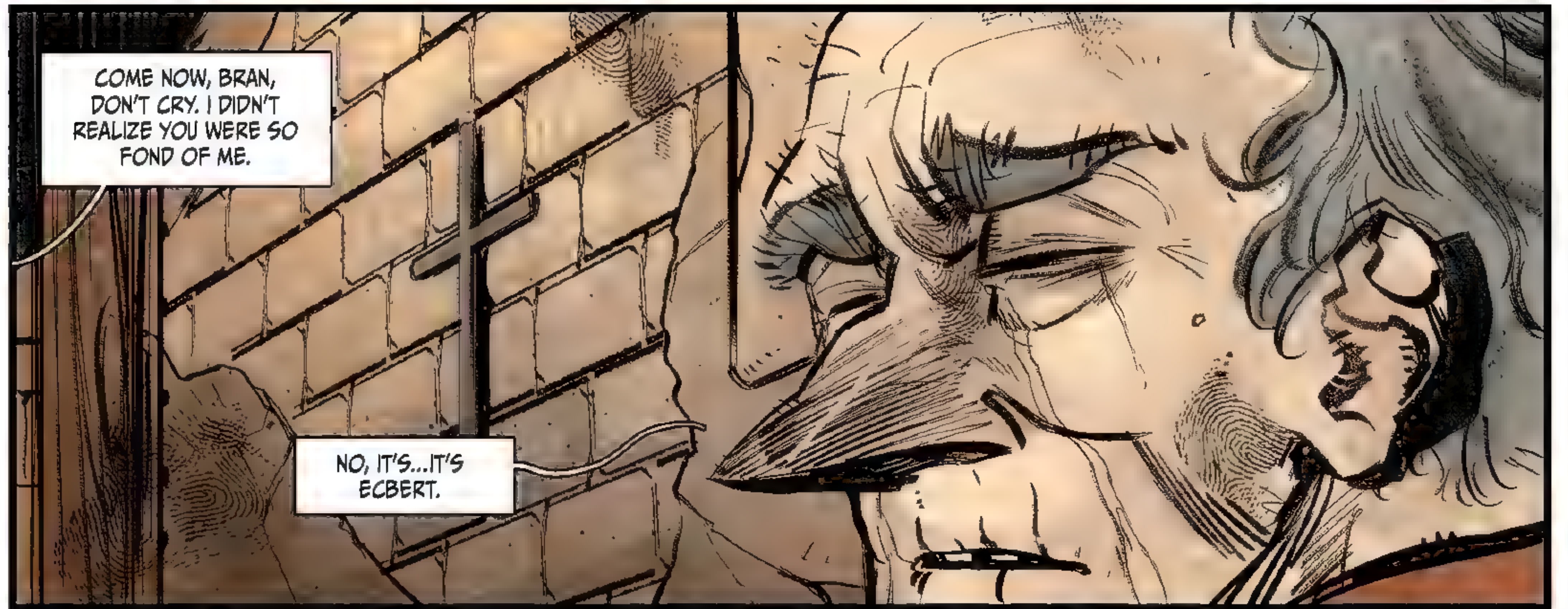
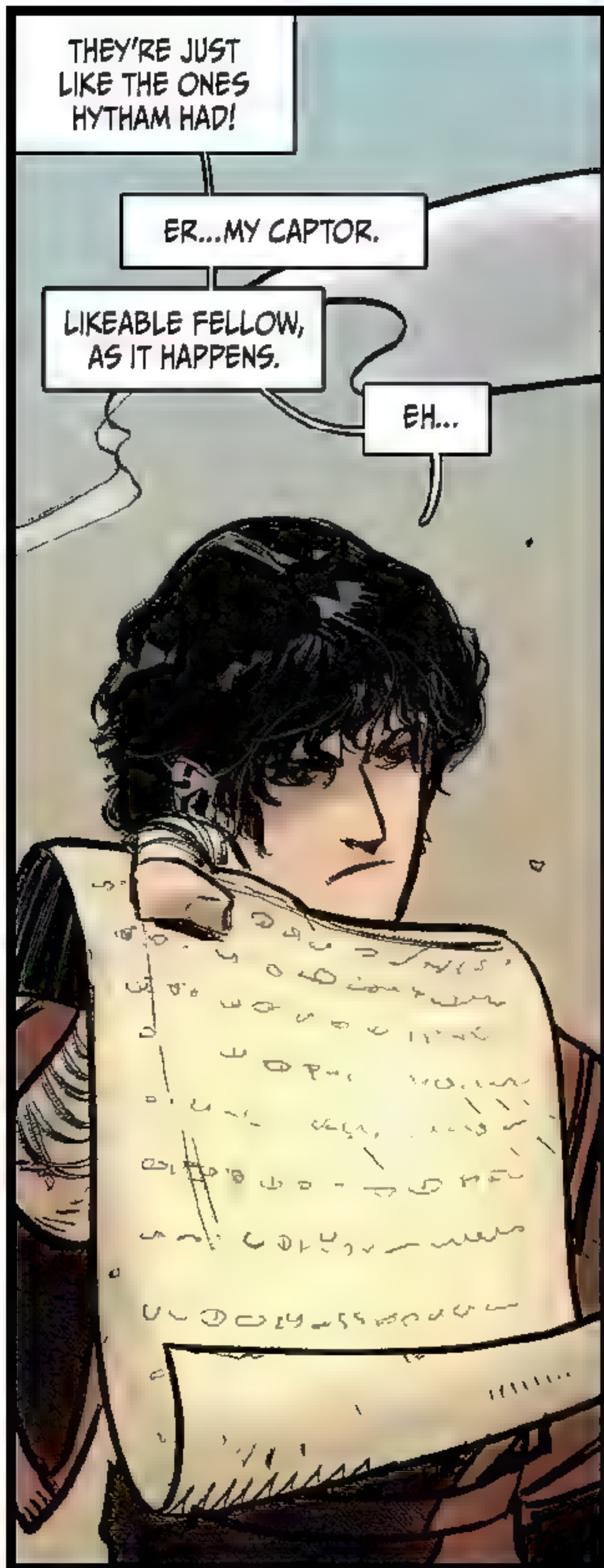


WHAT KIND OF AUTHORITY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS JUMBLE OF SYMBOLS?



THESE LETTERS...

THEY...





HYTHAM, I STILL
DON'T KNOW--

IF YOU'LL JOIN MY
ORDER, I'M AWARE.



YOU'LL FIND OUT IN LUNDEN.
THE NEW MENTOR RUNNING THE
BUREAU THERE IS REMARKABLE.

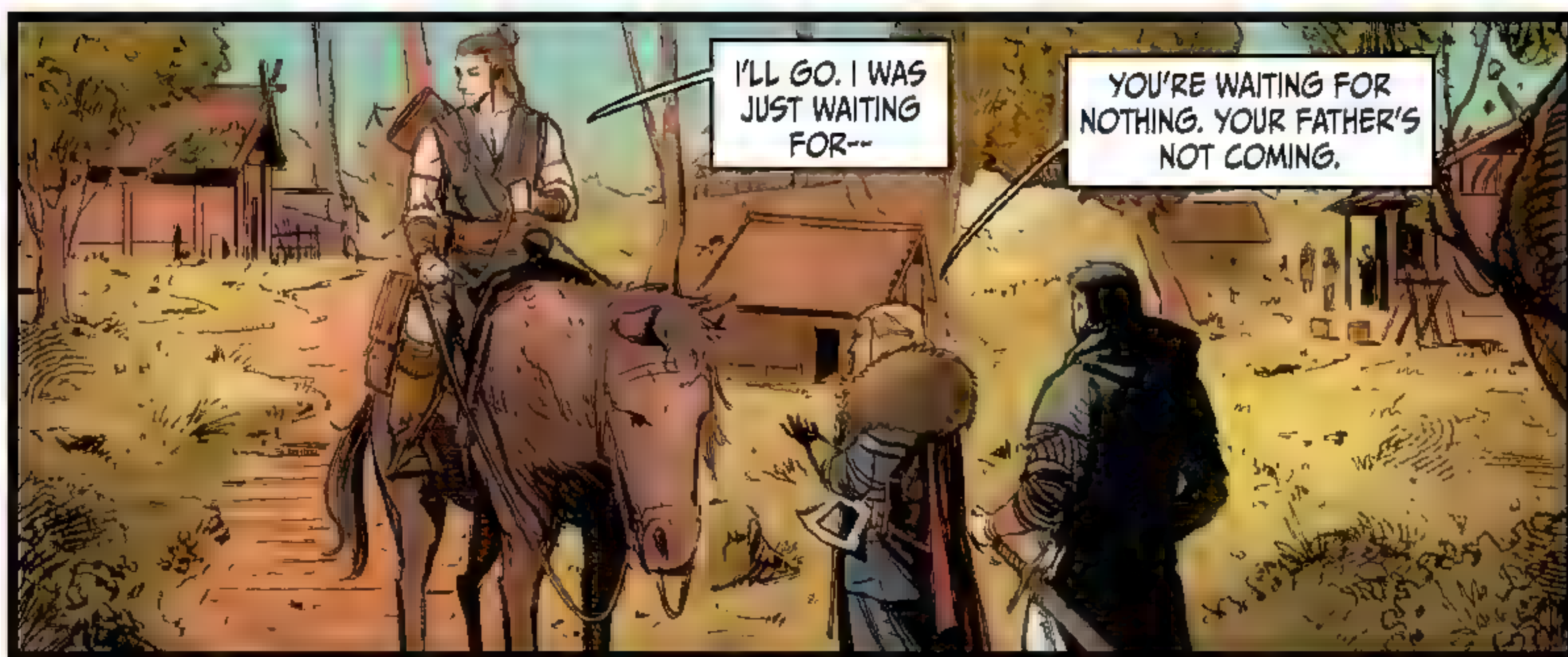


HEAR HIM OUT, NIELS. THE FIRST
TIME HYTHAM TOLD ME TO JUMP
OFF THE CLIFF BACK THERE, I
THOUGHT HE WAS INSANE...



...BUT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT
STEP IN MY SAGA.

OKAY, EIVOR.



I'LL GO. I WAS
JUST WAITING
FOR--

YOU'RE WAITING FOR
NOTHING. YOUR FATHER'S
NOT COMING.



DESTINY IS CALLING--

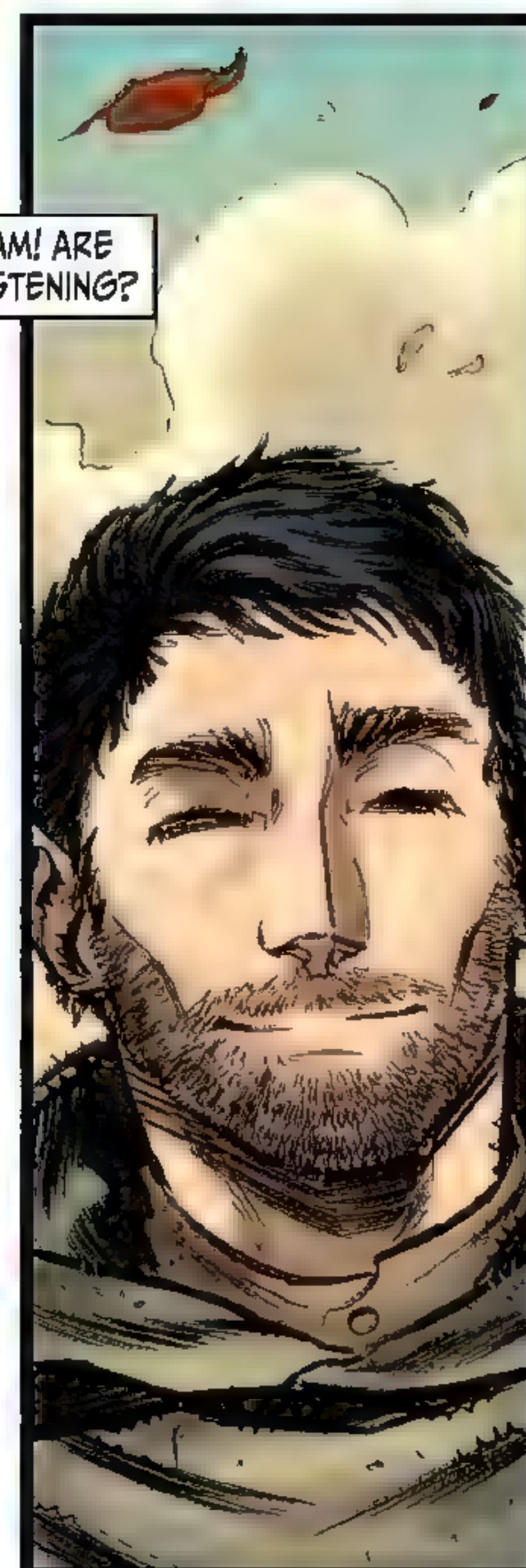


HYTHAM!



HYTHAM, I NEED YOUR HELP!
MY BROTHER RECEIVED
SOME MESSAGES THAT LOOK
LIKE THE ONES YOU--

EDWARD?!



HYTHAM! ARE
YOU LISTENING?

DESTINY IS CALLING, EDWARD.

HE SAID THAT TO ME.

AND TO ME, TOO. "THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS COINCIDENCE, EDWARD."

YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT THE MESSAGES YOUR BROTHER RECEIVED RESEMBLED THE ONES HYTHAM WAS HIDING.

THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO STUDY THEM...WITH HIM, IN RAVENSTHORPE!

BUT THERE--

"--ARE FAR MORE ARCHIVES AT THE BUREAU IN LUNDEN, AND LIBRARIES, AND SCHOLARS, AND UNICORNS, AND FAIRIES TO MAKE ALL YOUR WISHES COME TRUE!"

YES, I GET IT...

HE JUST WANTS ME TO WORK WITH HIS ORDER.

BAH, IT'S RATHER NICE FOR SOMEONE TO HAVE FAITH IN US. IT MAKES A CHANGE.


FOR YOU, MAYBE.

IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT YOUR BROTHER, WHY ARE YOU SO KEEN TO FIND HIM?


IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT YOUR FATHER, WHY WERE YOU HOPING HE'D COME SAY GOODBYE?

BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE FREE.

JUST NOT ALONE.



FINDING THE BUREAU WILL
BE YOUR FIRST CHALLENGE.



YOU'RE SURE THIS IS THE
PLACE? IT'S DESERTED.

IF AN ANCIENT ORGANIZATION IS
REOPENING ONE OF ITS FORMER
CAMPUSES, THIS SEEMS LIKE A
LOGICAL LOCATION.



WHO SAID I WANTED A
CHALLENGE?

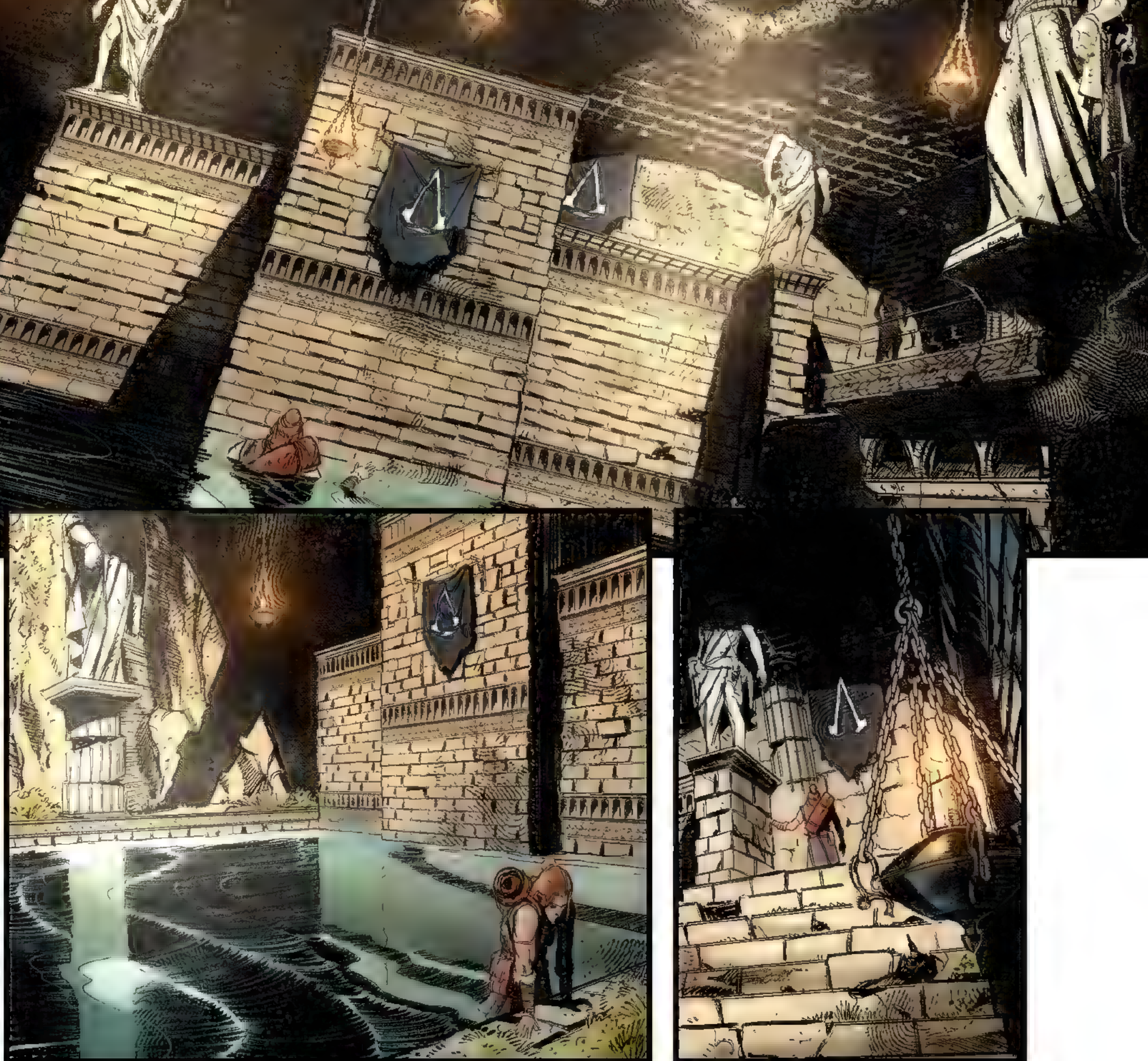
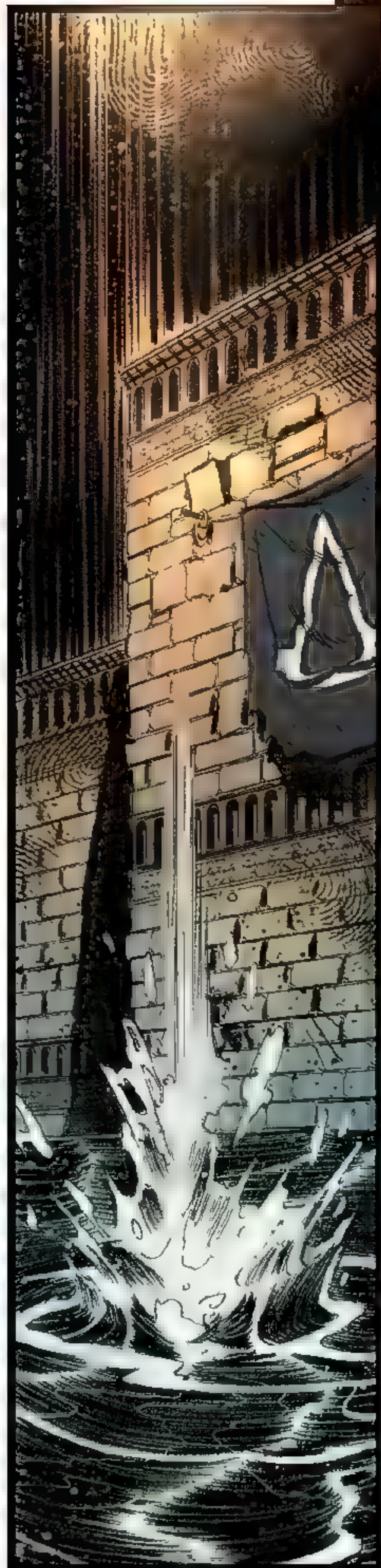
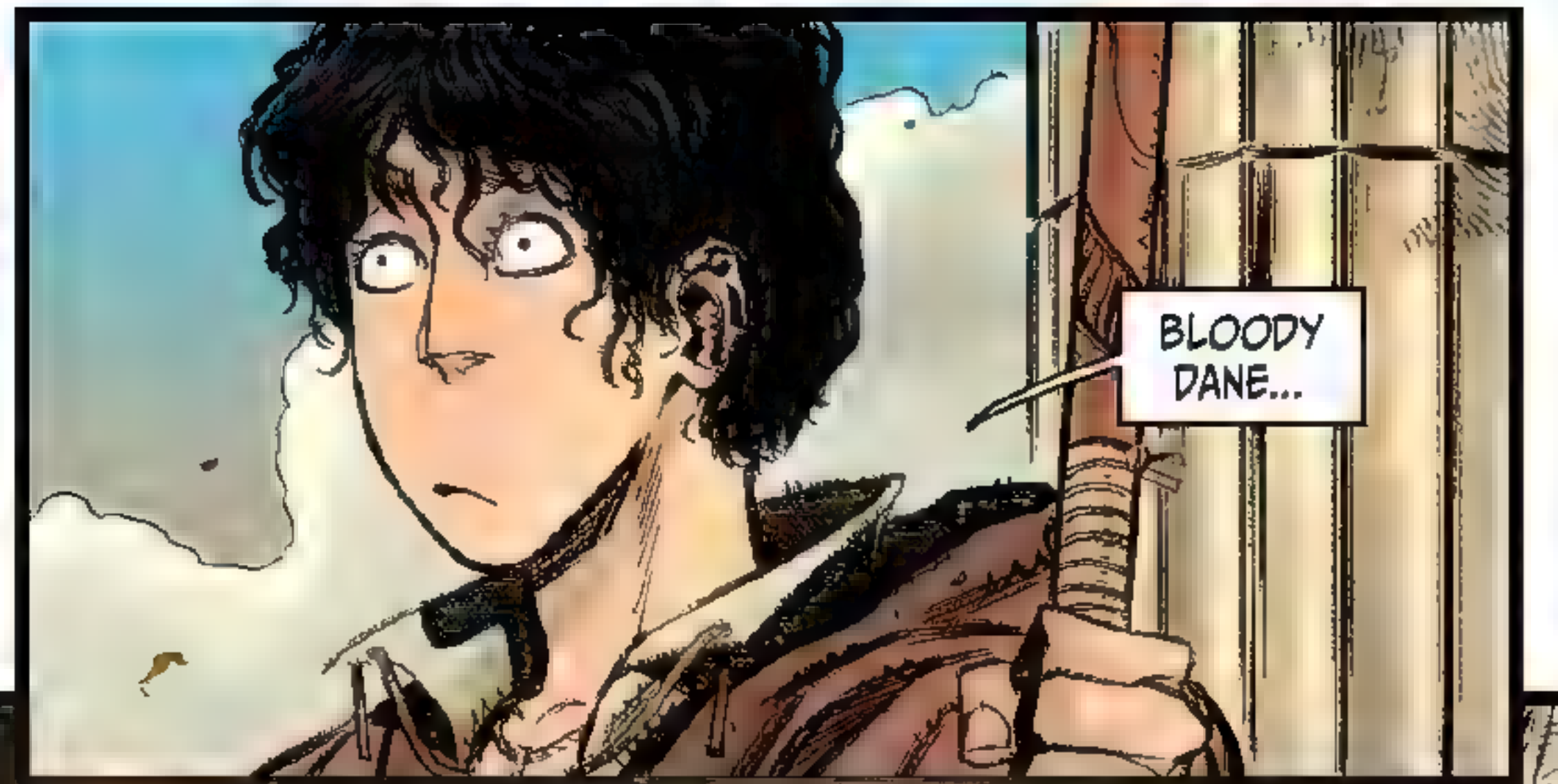
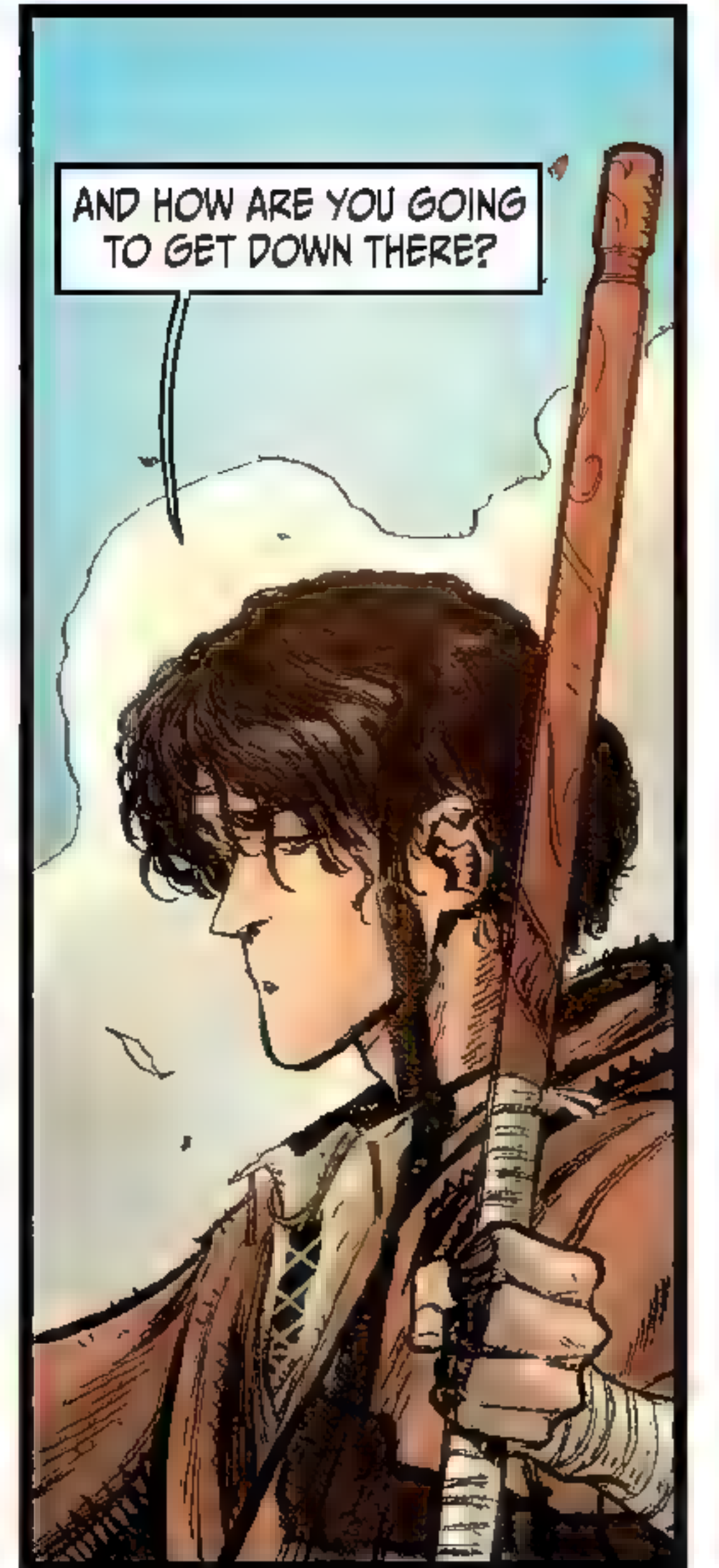


MAYBE YOU'RE
RIGHT...



WHAT WAS IT AGAIN? "DO
NOT OVERLOOK THAT WHICH
OVERLOOKS ALL ELSE."

A RIDDLE FIT FOR A
VILLAGE FESTIVAL. I
ASSUME WE HAVE TO
CLIMB UP HIGH TO FIND IT.





NOISY,
SMELLY,
CLUMSY.



YOU MUST BE
NIELS.



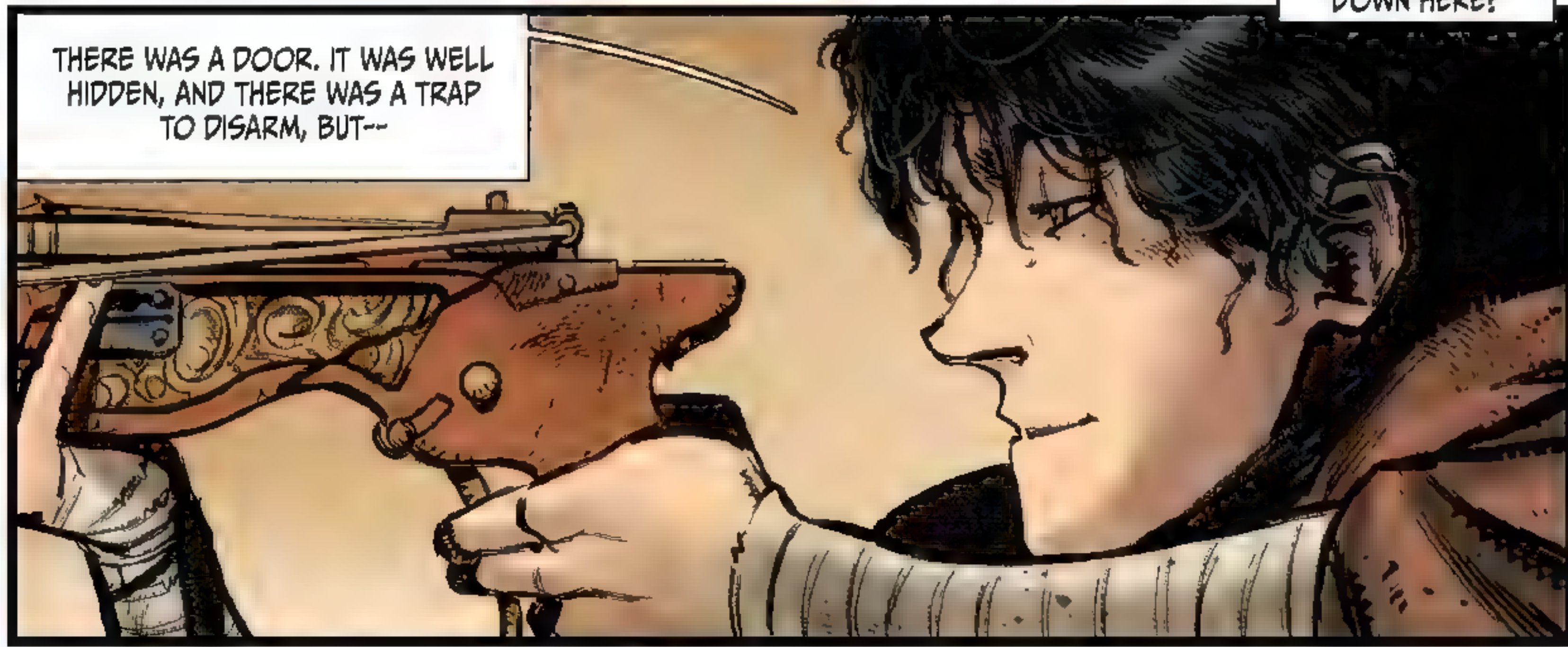
LET HIM
GO, WITCH.



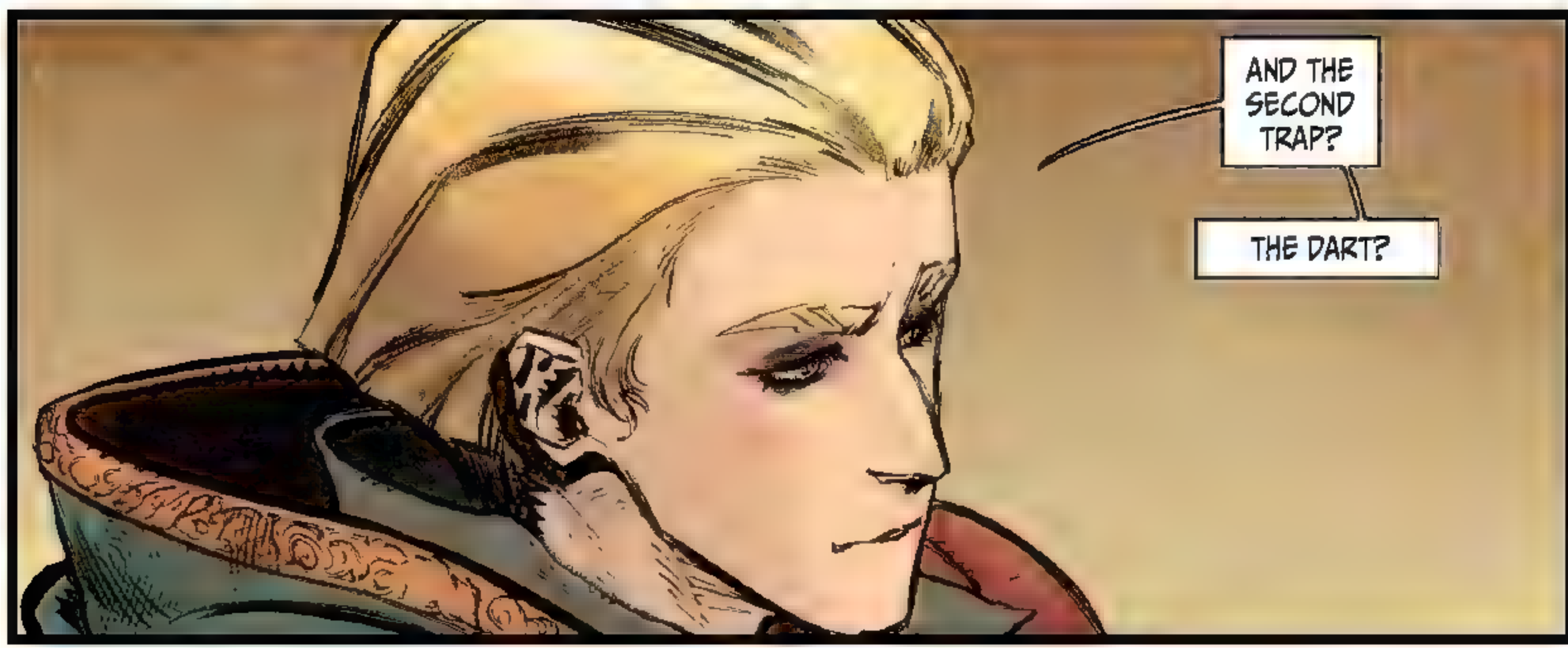
AND I WANT TO SLAP
YOU THE SECOND YOU
OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

EDWARD, IS IT?

HOW DID YOU GET
DOWN HERE?



THERE WAS A DOOR. IT WAS WELL
HIDDEN, AND THERE WAS A TRAP
TO DISARM, BUT--

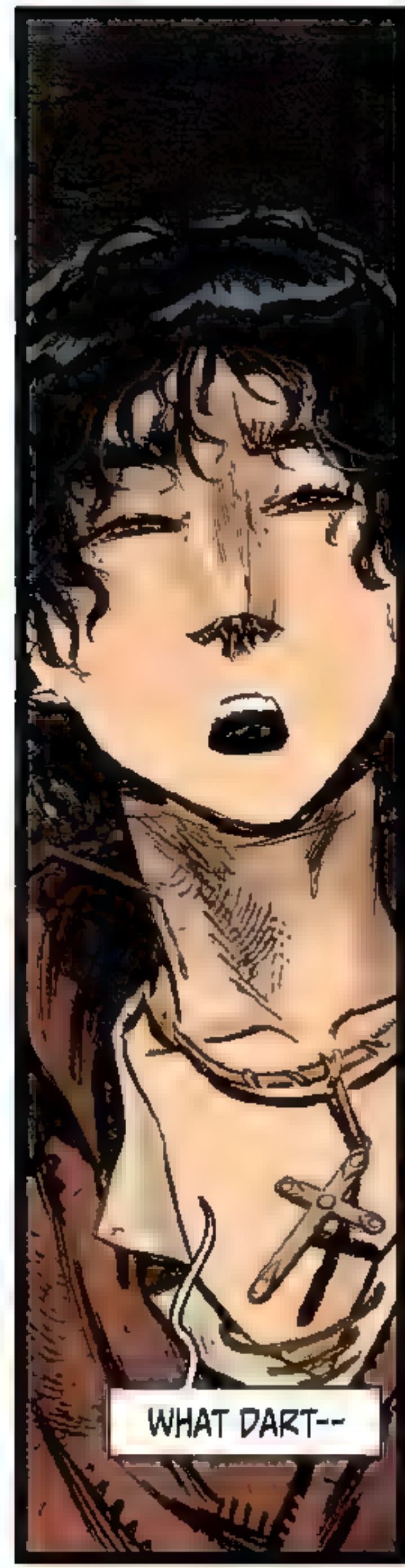


AND THE
SECOND
TRAP?

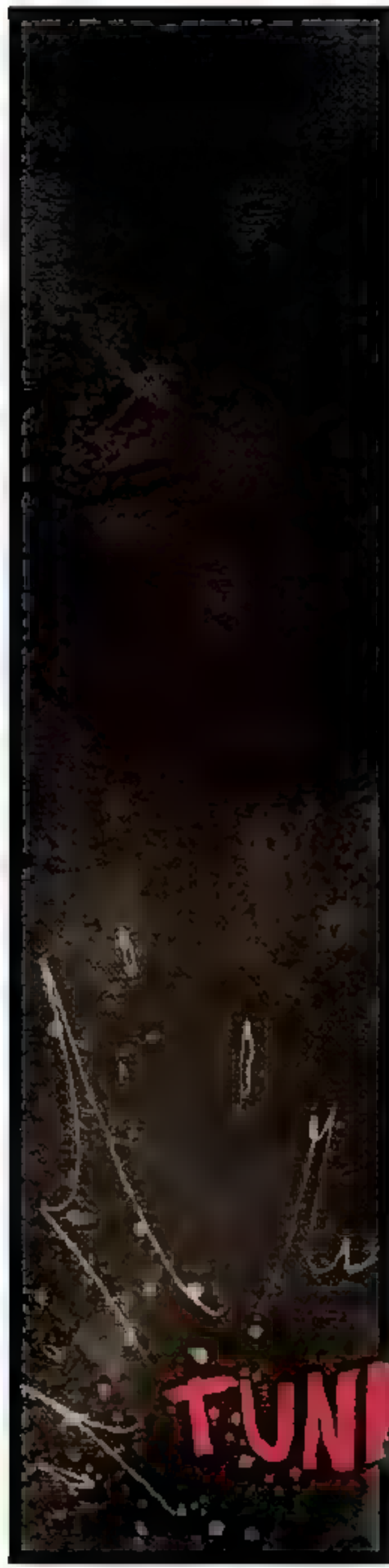
THE DART?



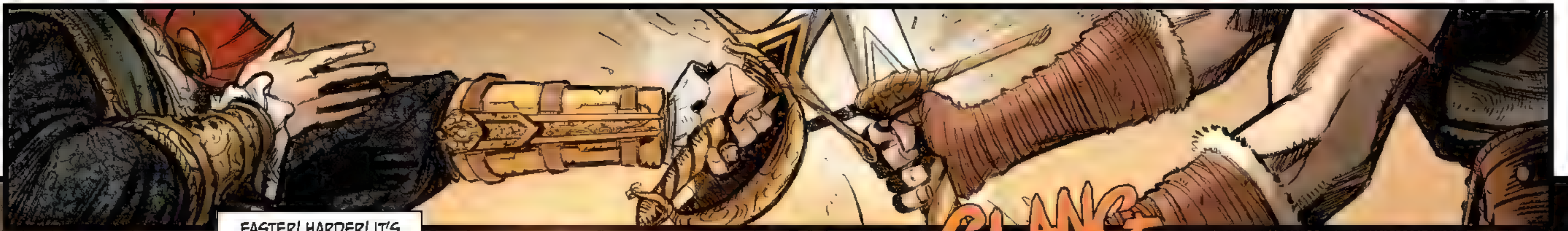
THE
DART?



WHAT DART--



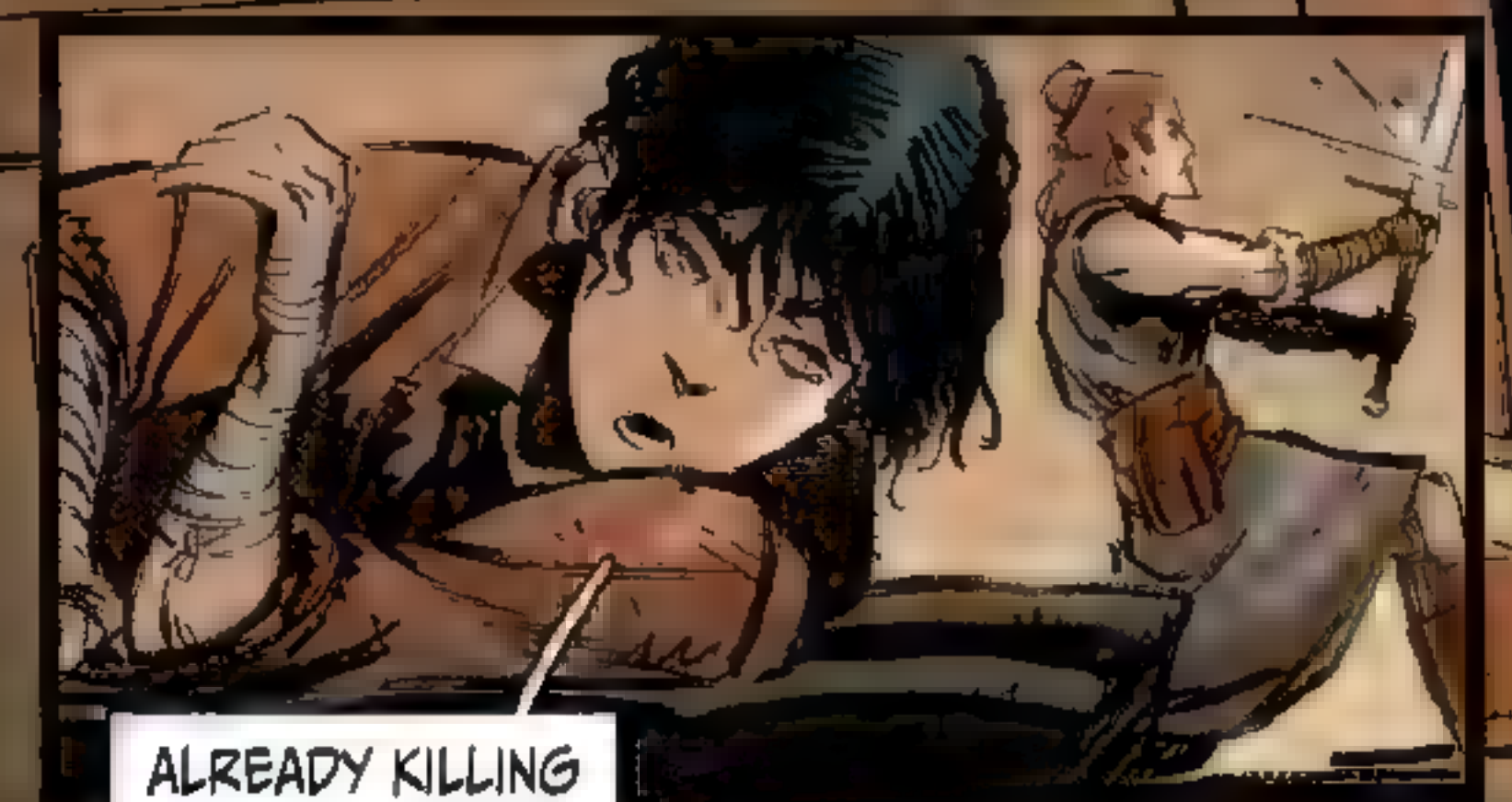
TUNK



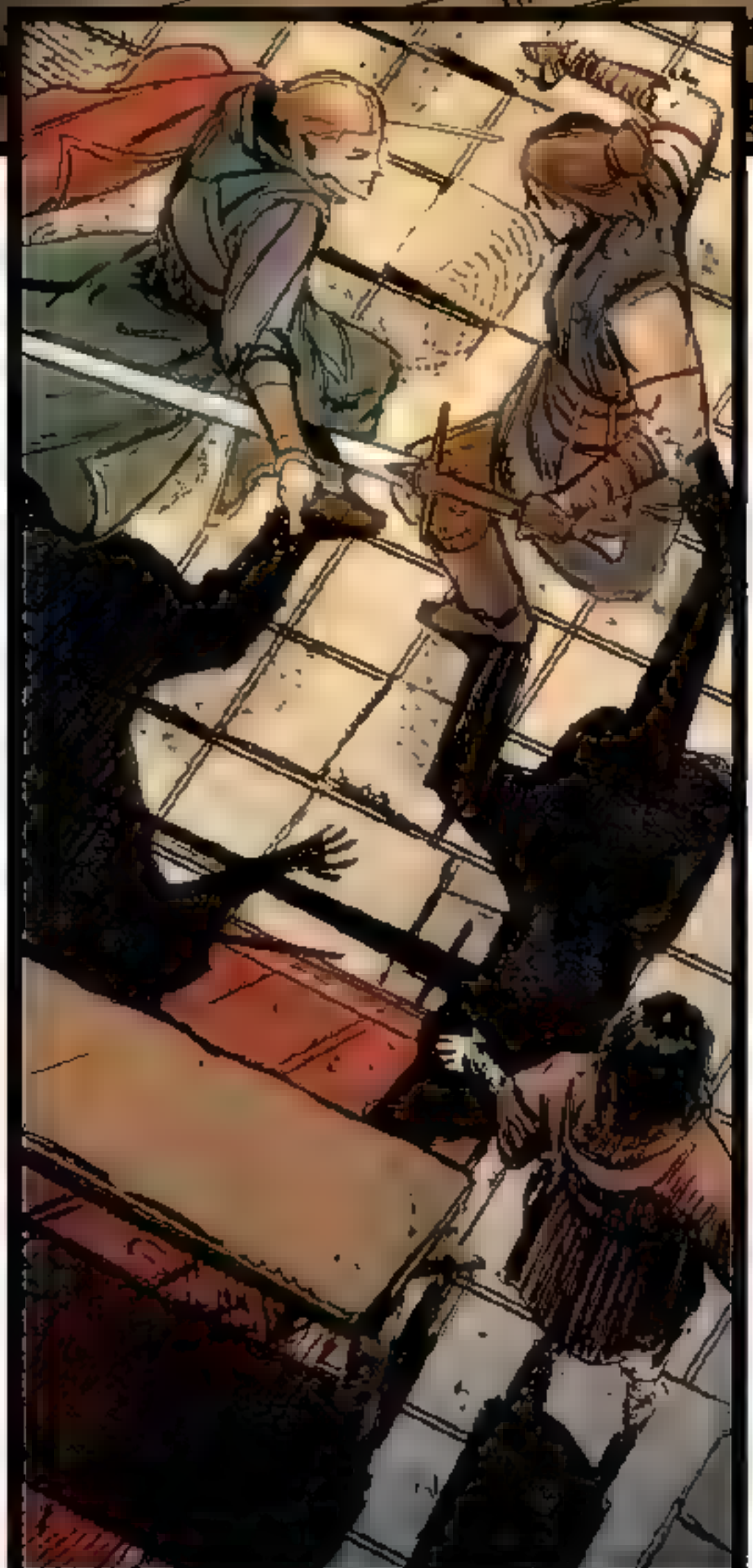
FASTER! HARDER! IT'S NOT AN AXE OR A SHORT SWORD!

IT HAS TWO EDGES. USE THEM!

CHARGE ME WITH YOUR INERTIA!



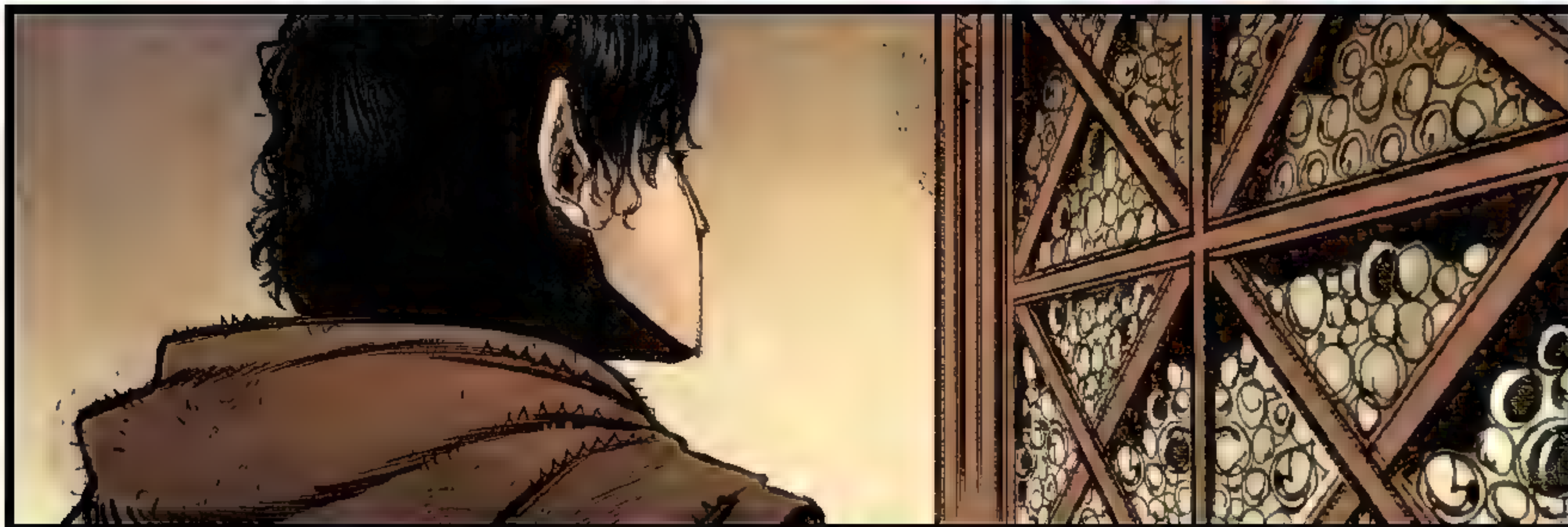
ALREADY KILLING EACH OTHER?



ALREADY... LEARNING...



THIS LIBRARY IS INDEED BETTER STOCKED THAN THE ONE IN RAVENSTHORPE.



HMPH...ALWAYS THE SAME.





SCHLACK

ONLY THE INITIATED
CAN ENTER THAT
SECTION.

THAT'S NOT YOU.

PANT
PANT
PANT

AH, I TAKE IT BACK. IT'S
NOTHING LIKE--

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY HYTHAM
SENT ME HERE, TO STUDY THESE
DOCUMENTS AND ACCESS
OCCULT KNOWLEDGE.

NO. HYTHAM SENT YOU TO FIND
OUT WHETHER YOUR BROTHER'S
DISAPPEARANCE WAS LINKED TO THE
STRANGE MESSAGES HE RECEIVED.

AND FOR THAT, YOU'LL NEED
TO FIND WHO SENT THEM.

I DID MY
RESEARCH
ON YOU.

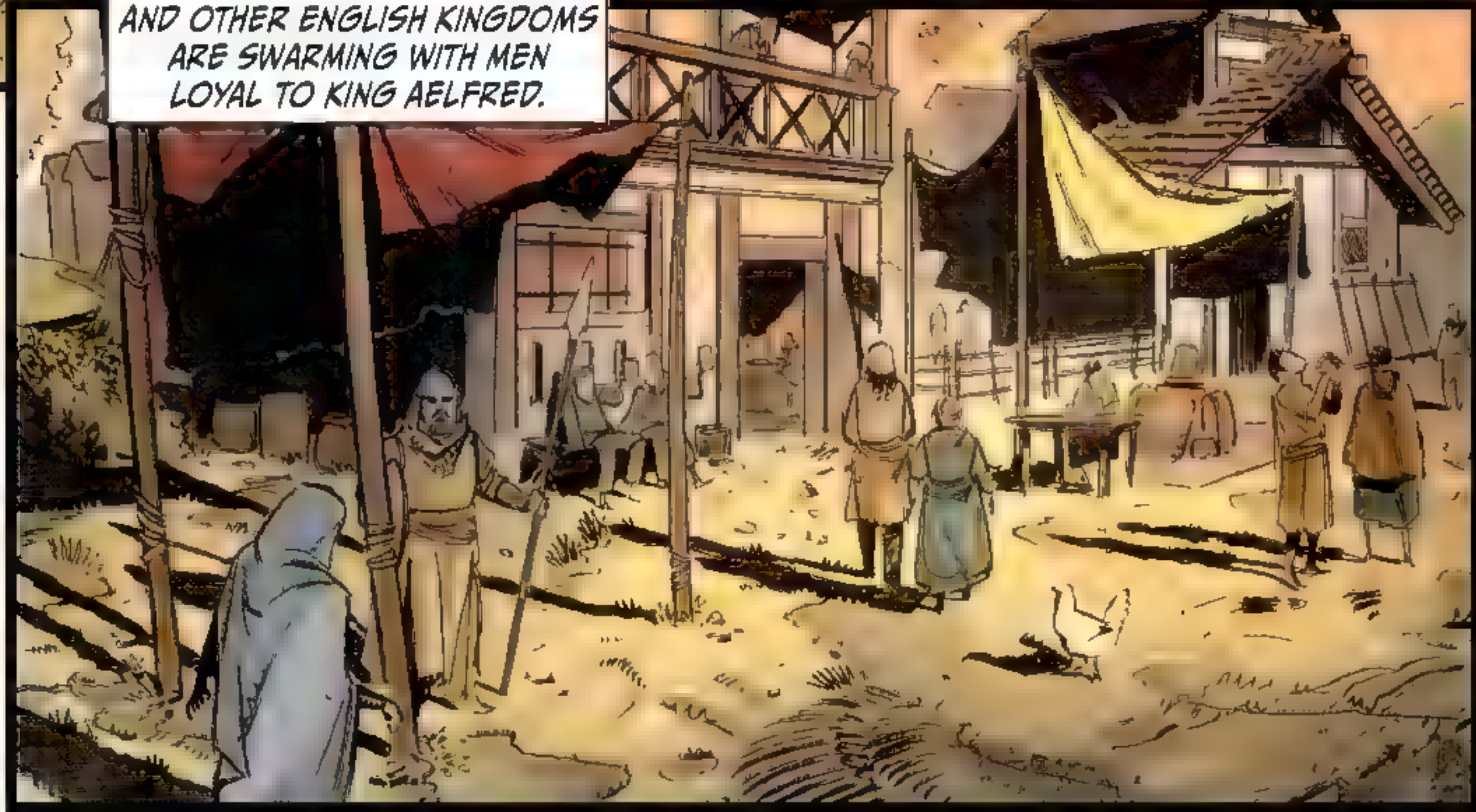
YOU LIKE
DISGUISES, RIGHT?



FINDING A MESSENGER ISN'T NECESSARILY DIFFICULT.



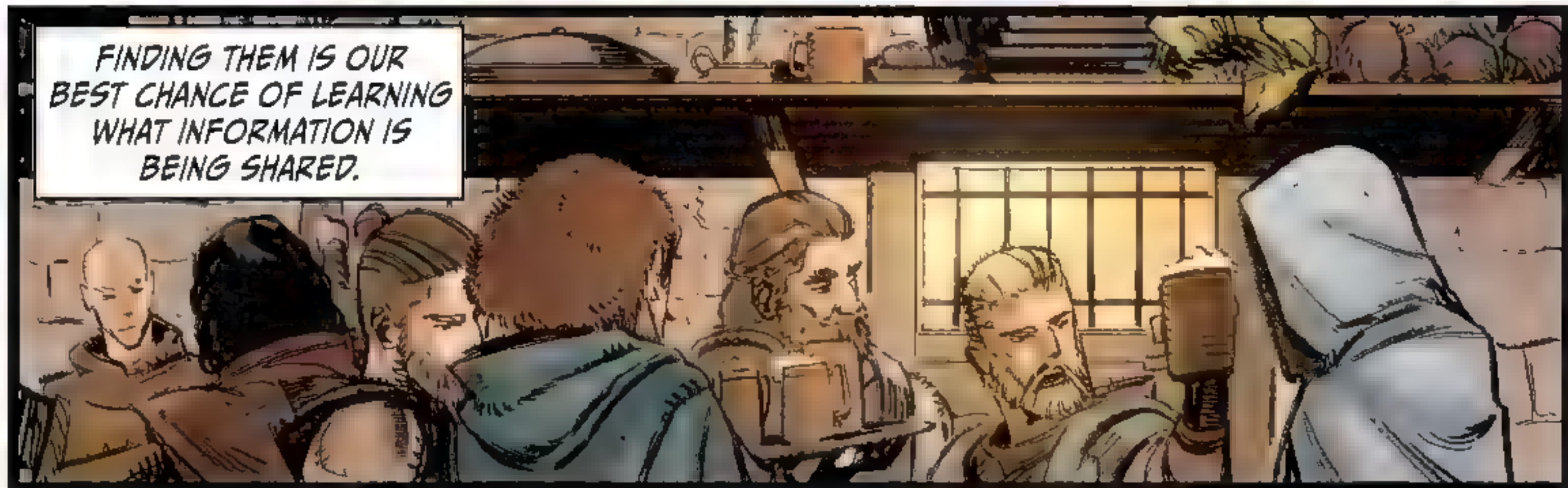
THE MONASTERIES IN WESSEX AND OTHER ENGLISH KINGDOMS ARE SWARMING WITH MEN LOYAL TO KING AELFRED.



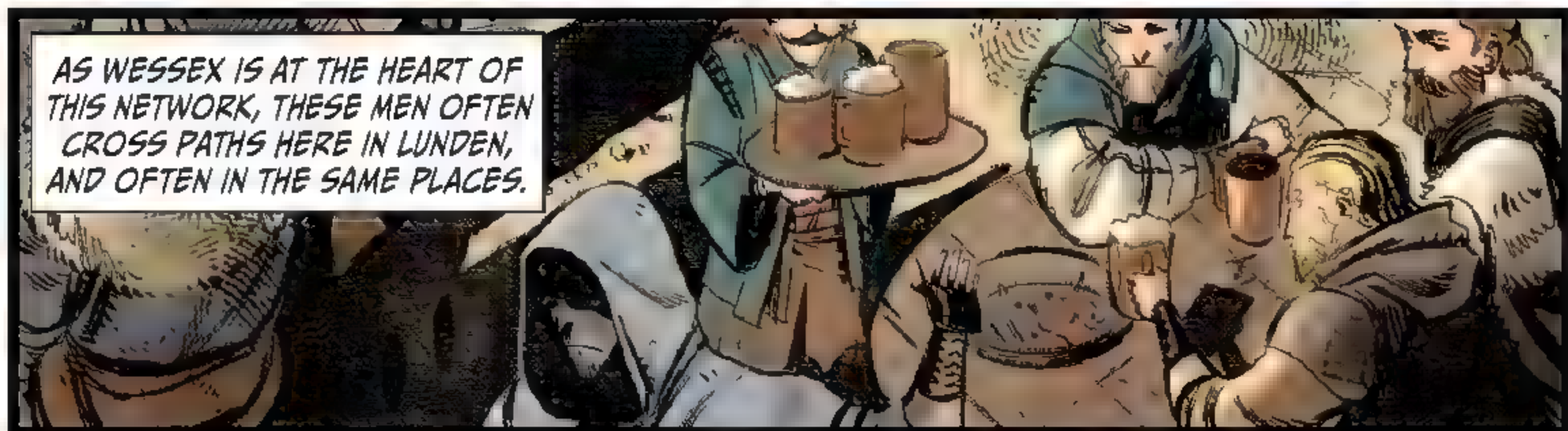
HE HAS INSTALLED HIS SUPPORTERS THERE, NOT ALWAYS AT THE HEAD OF THE CONGREGATIONS, BUT IN KEY POSTS.



THE ENVOYS THAT TRAVEL BETWEEN THESE MONASTERIES ALL ANSWER TO HIM.



FINDING THEM IS OUR BEST CHANCE OF LEARNING WHAT INFORMATION IS BEING SHARED.



AS WESSEX IS AT THE HEART OF THIS NETWORK, THESE MEN OFTEN CROSS PATHS HERE IN LUNDEN, AND OFTEN IN THE SAME PLACES.



SO, SPY ON THEIR CONVERSATIONS, MINGLE WITH THEM IF YOU CAN, AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT.



HEY, YOU! WHERE'S MY BEER?



IF YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW ONE OF THEM, REMEMBER...



...AVOID EYE CONTACT, AND ALWAYS LEAVE A FEW PEOPLE BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR TARGET.



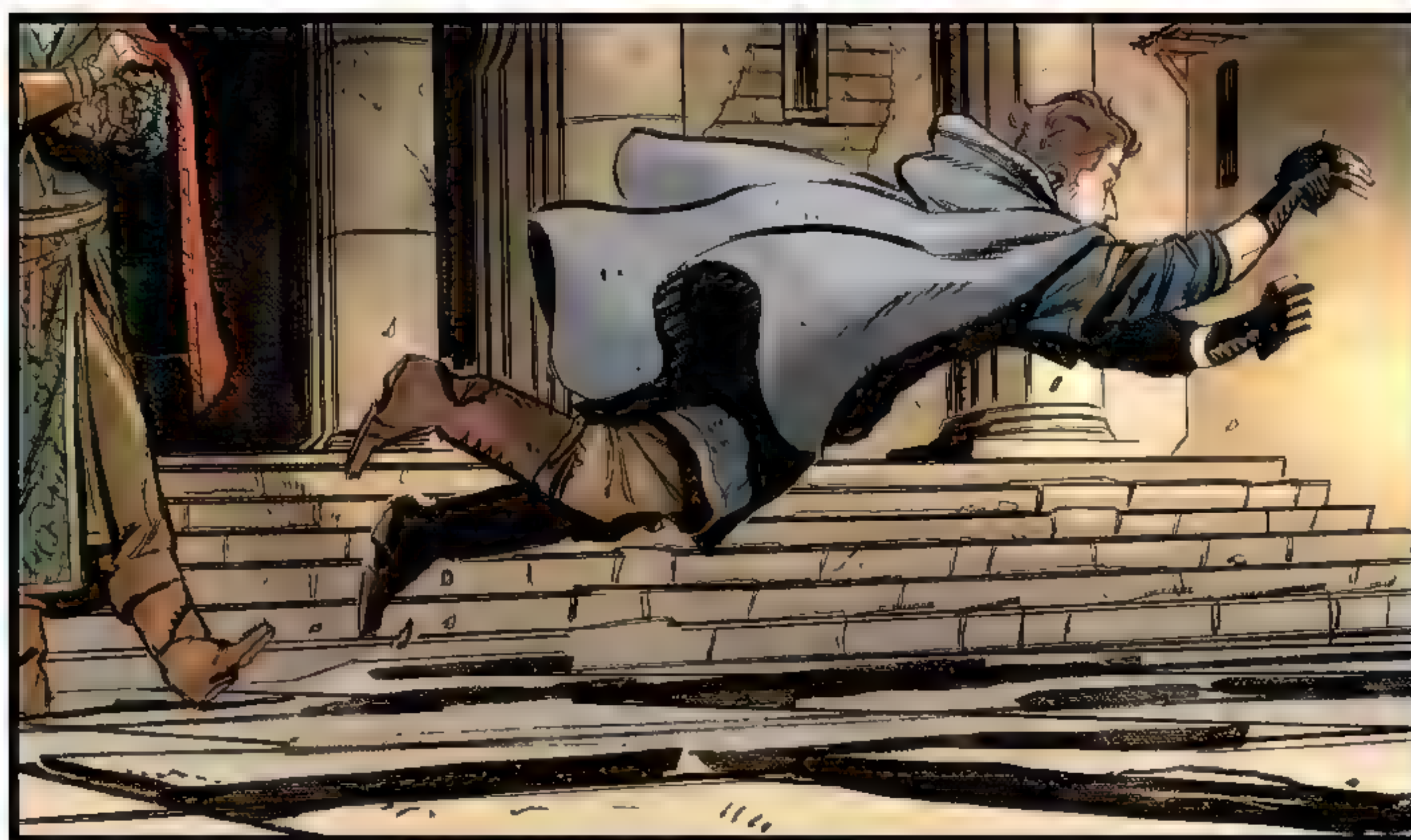
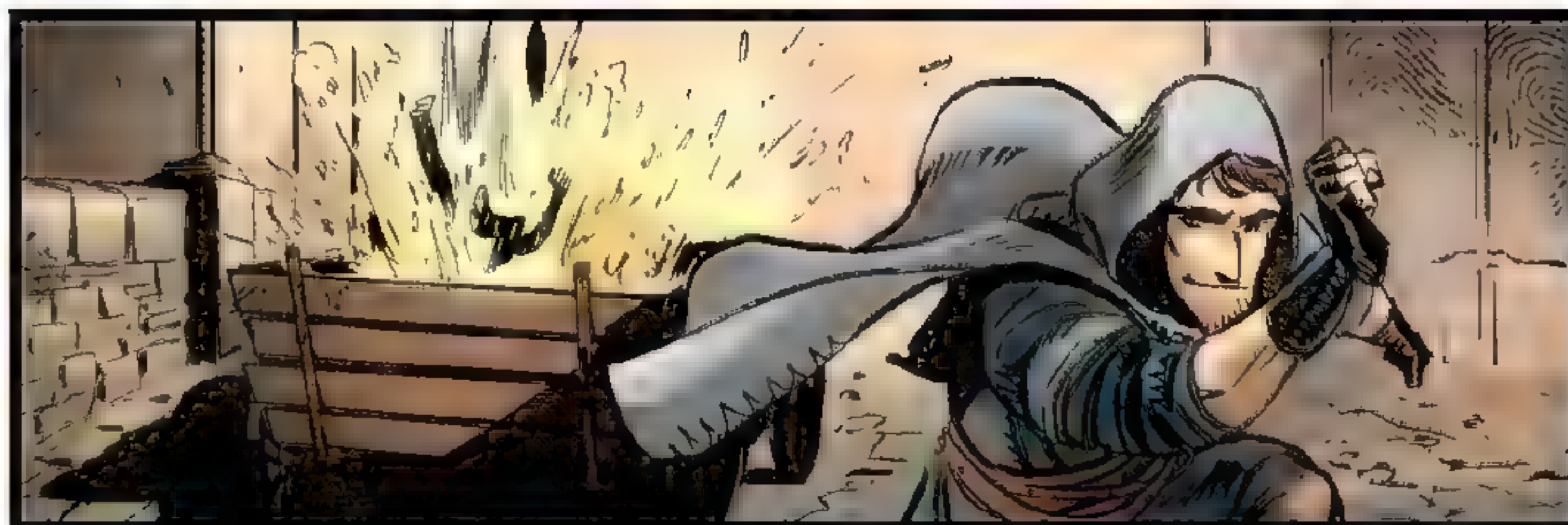
USE THE LINING IN YOUR CLOTHES TO ALTER YOUR SILHOUETTE.

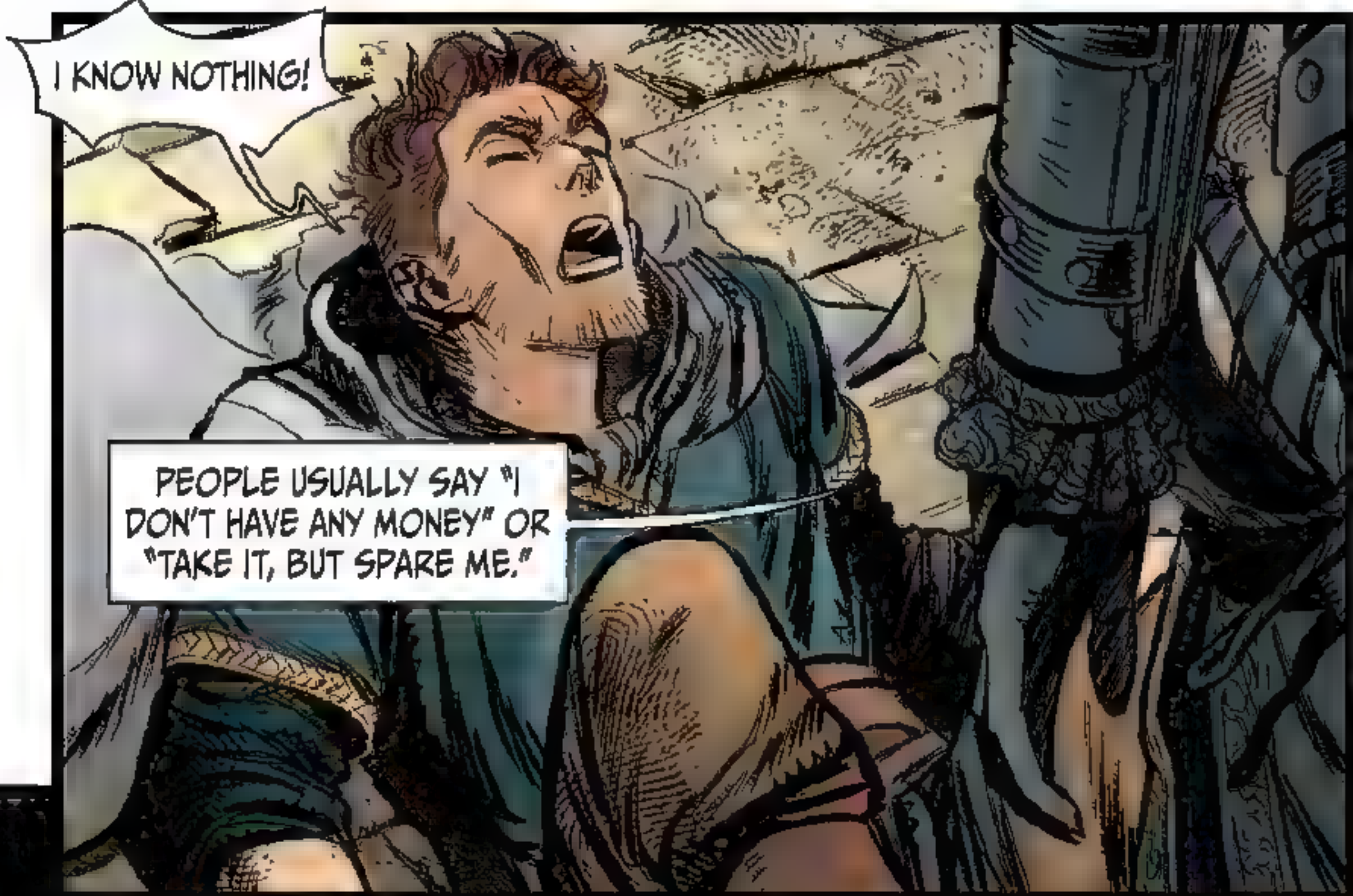


AND IF WORST COMES TO WORST AND YOUR TARGET FLEES...



...STAY CALM. YOUR PARTNER IS ALSO IN TRAINING.



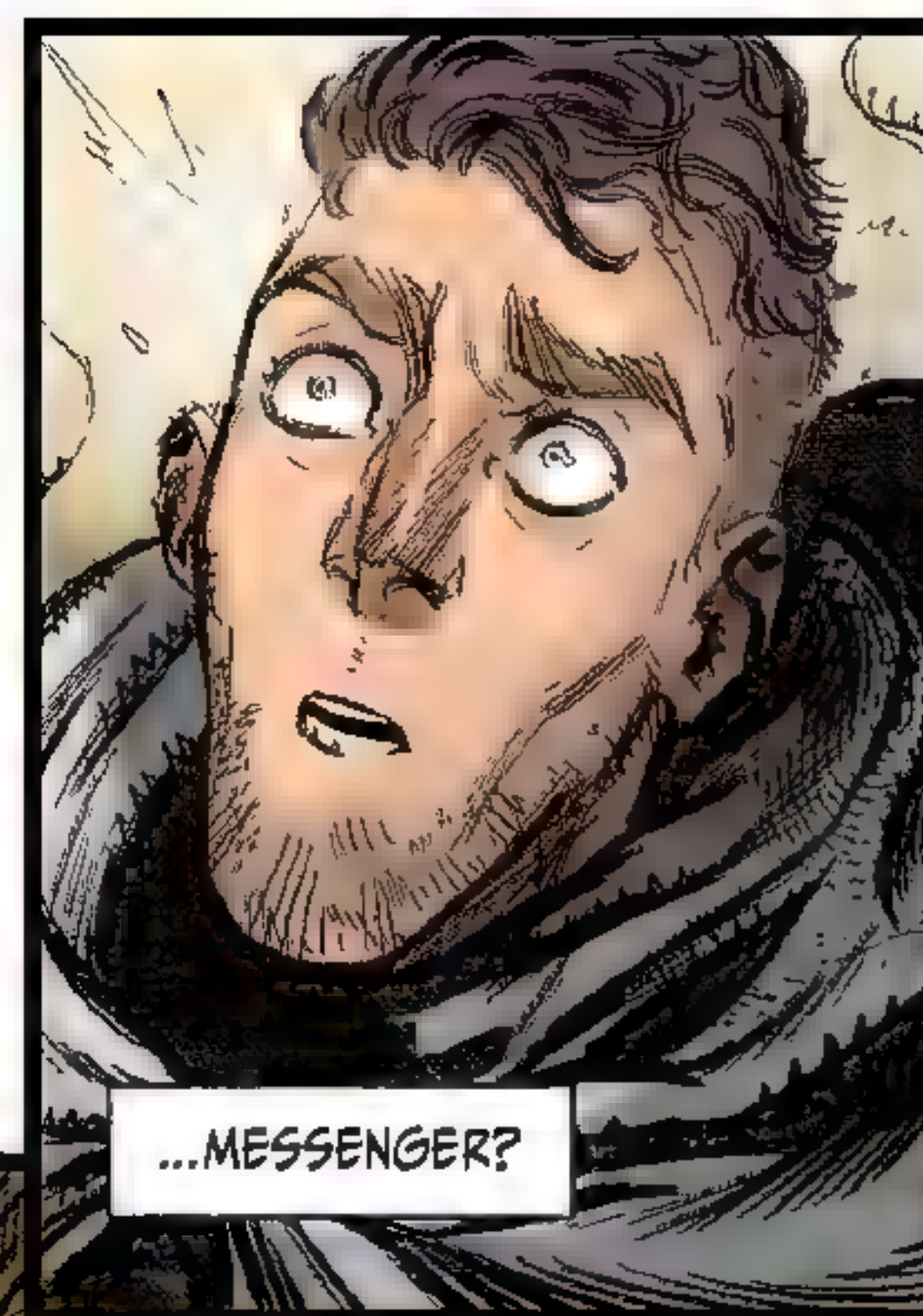


I KNOW NOTHING!

PEOPLE USUALLY SAY "I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY" OR "TAKE IT, BUT SPARE ME."



SO...WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT'S MORE VALUABLE THAN YOUR COIN PURSE...



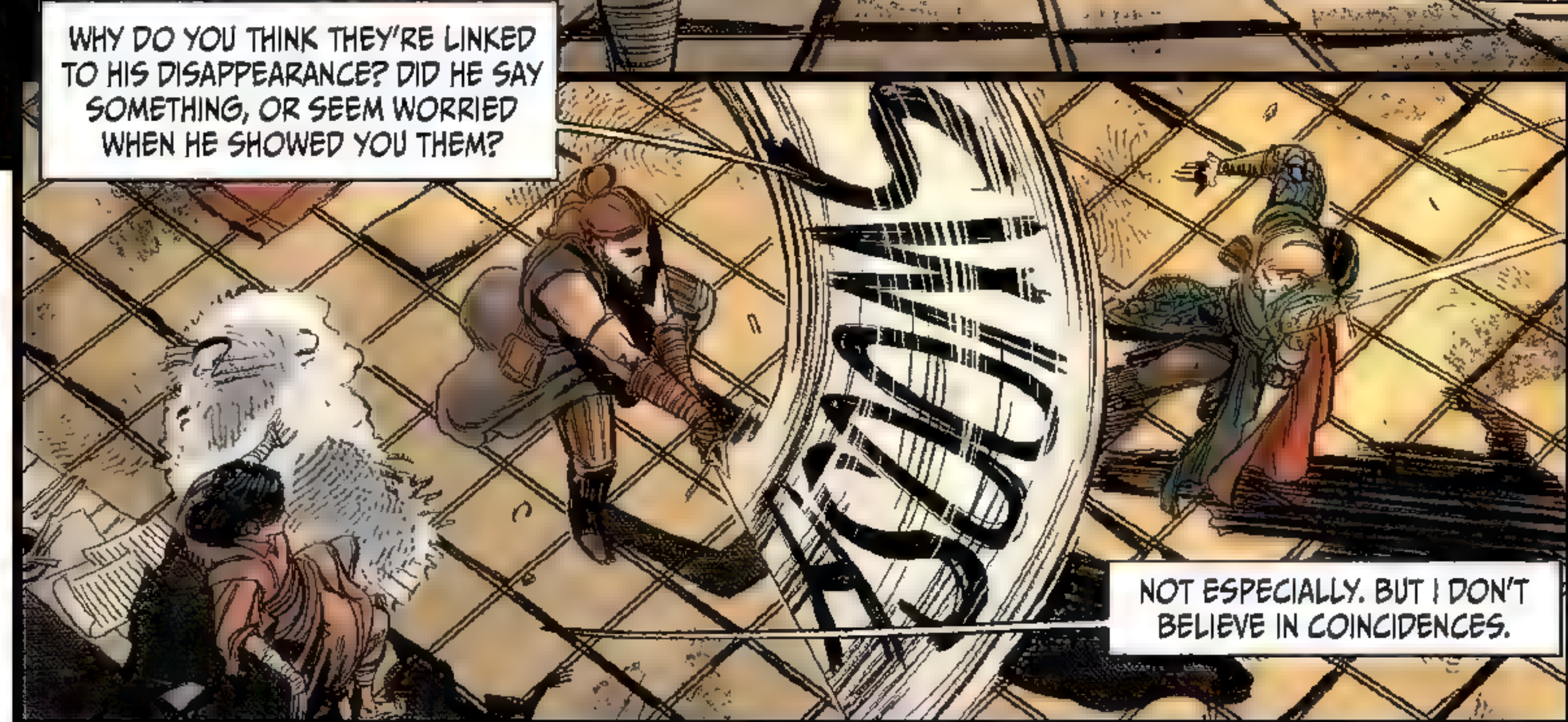
...MESSENGER?



A SECRET MEETING IS TAKING PLACE IN A FEW DAYS IN WINCESTRE.

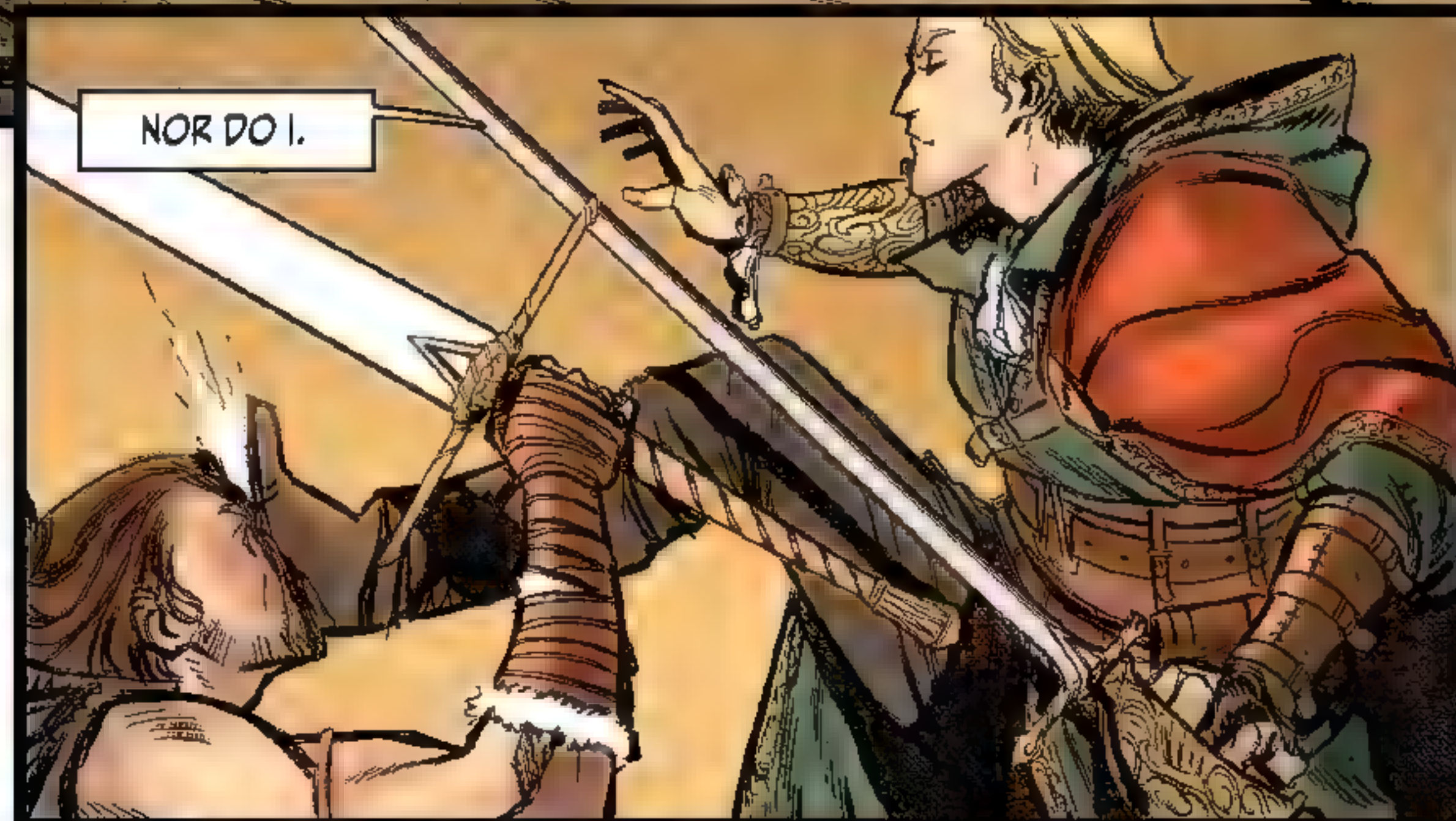
IF WE CAN INFILTRATE IT, PERHAPS YOU'LL DISCOVER WHAT THOSE MESSAGES MEAN AND WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR BROTHER. ALTHOUGH...

YES?



WHY DO YOU THINK THEY'RE LINKED TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE? DID HE SAY SOMETHING, OR SEEM WORRIED WHEN HE SHOWED YOU THEM?

NOT ESPECIALLY. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES.



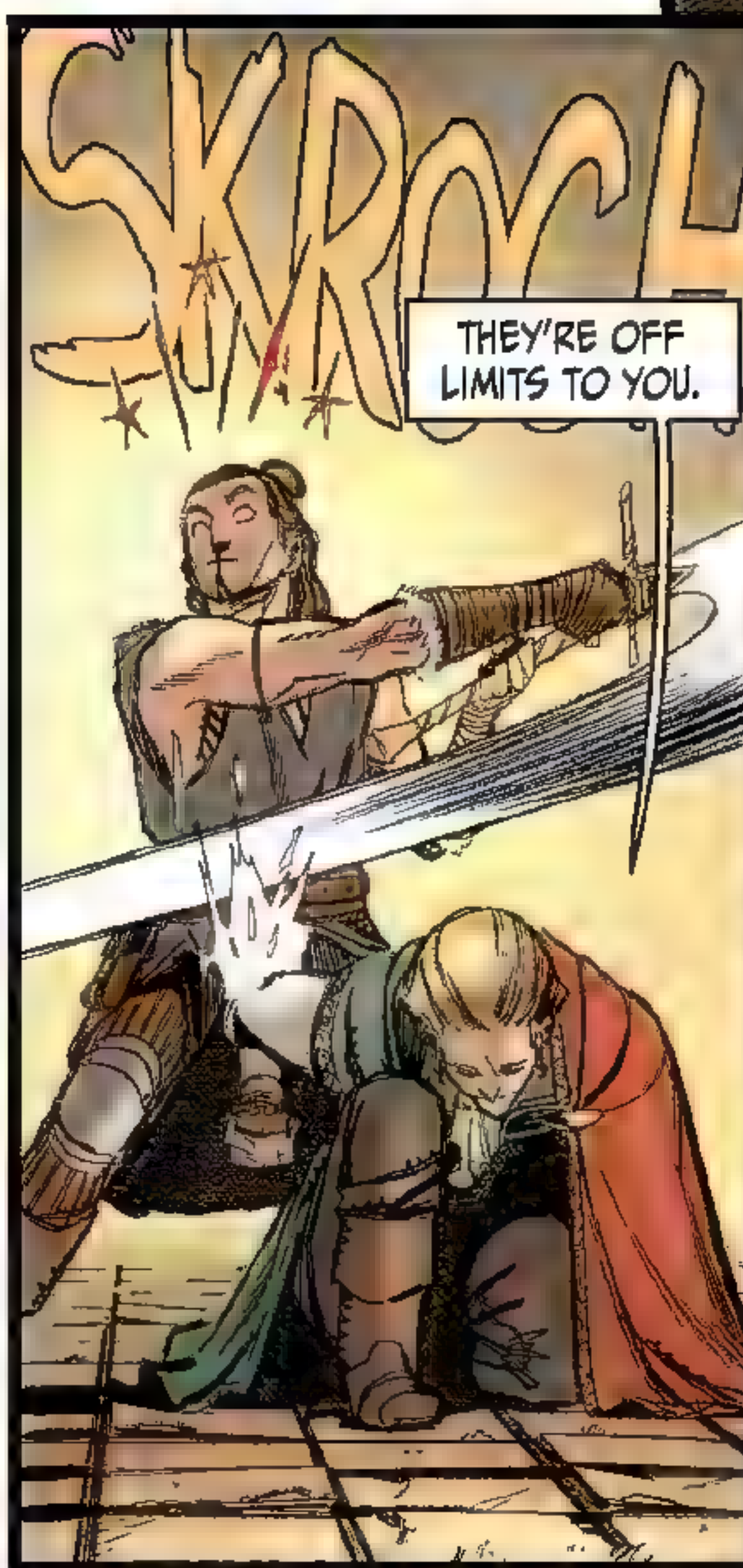
NOR DO I.



WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL FIND THERE. WE NEED TO RAMP UP YOUR TRAINING. I CAN'T TEACH YOU EVERYTHING, EDWARD, BUT YOU'LL NEED TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT. AND PERFECT YOUR INFILTRATION SKILLS.

WHAT ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS? AND THE OCCULT SECTION?

ONE DAY, PERHAPS. BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S IN THOSE DOCUMENTS. NOT NOW, AT LEAST.



THEY'RE OFF LIMITS TO YOU.



OKAY, OKAY...



"PERFECT MY INFILTRATION
SKILLS," EH?

OKAY, THEN.



IT'S NOT LIKE I'M
LEARNING ANYTHING...

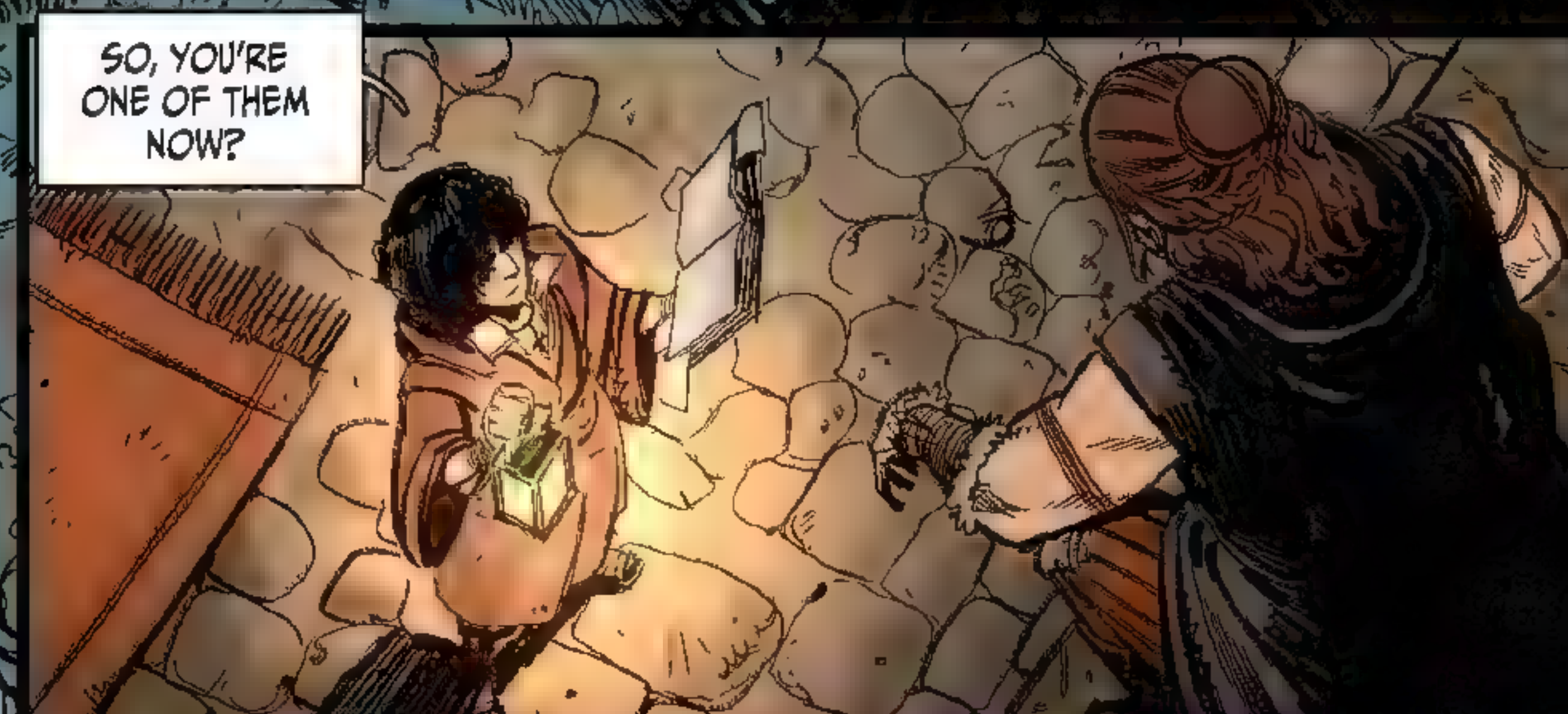
WHAT NONSENSE.



THEY DEFINITELY
COULDN'T DO
THIS.



YOU CAN READ
IT TOO?



SO, YOU'RE
ONE OF THEM
NOW?



I HAVE TO ADMIT, THEIR
STEALTH TECHNIQUES ARE
RATHER EFFECTIVE ONCE
YOU GET USED TO THEM.

I'M THRILLED.

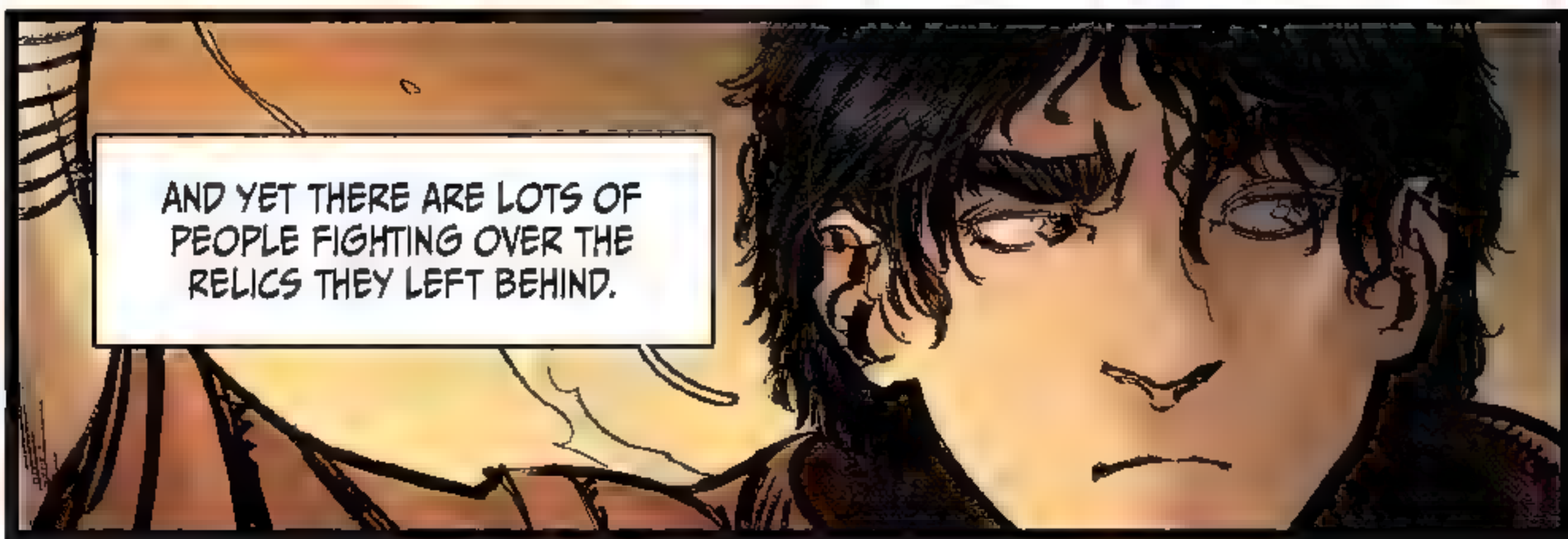


SO, HAVE YOU FOUND ANY CLUES ABOUT YOUR BROTHER'S WHEREABOUTS?

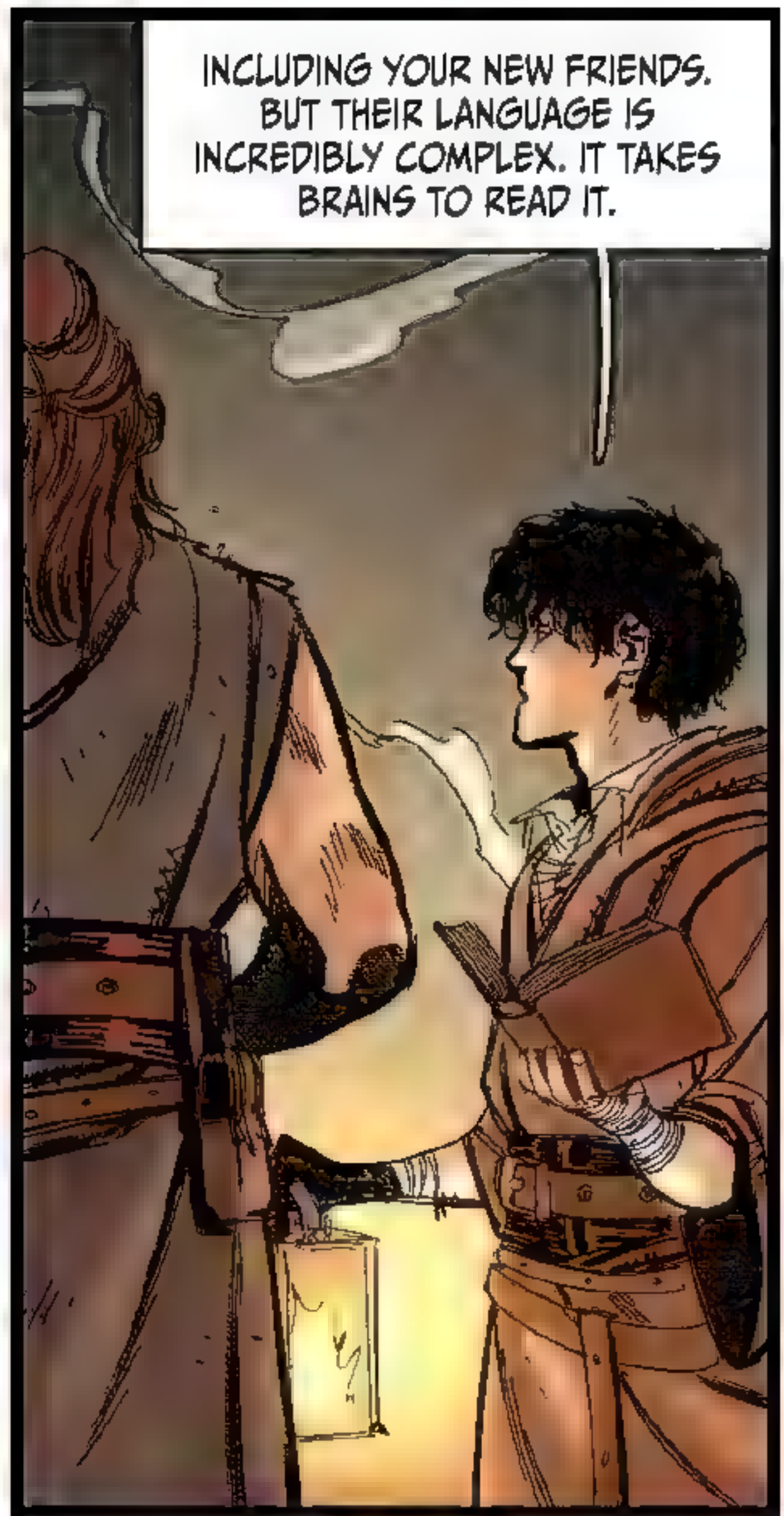
NO, BUT I LEARNED MORE ABOUT THESE ISU, THOUGH I'M FAR FROM UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING.



WHY BOTHER? IF PEOPLE STOPPED TALKING ABOUT THEM, THEN THEIR SAGAS CAN'T BE OF ANY INTEREST.



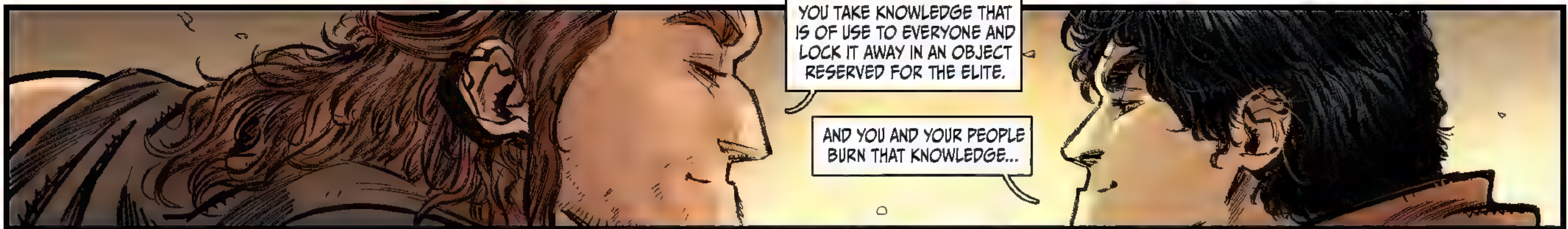
AND YET THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE FIGHTING OVER THE RELICS THEY LEFT BEHIND.



INCLUDING YOUR NEW FRIENDS. BUT THEIR LANGUAGE IS INCREDIBLY COMPLEX. IT TAKES BRAINS TO READ IT.

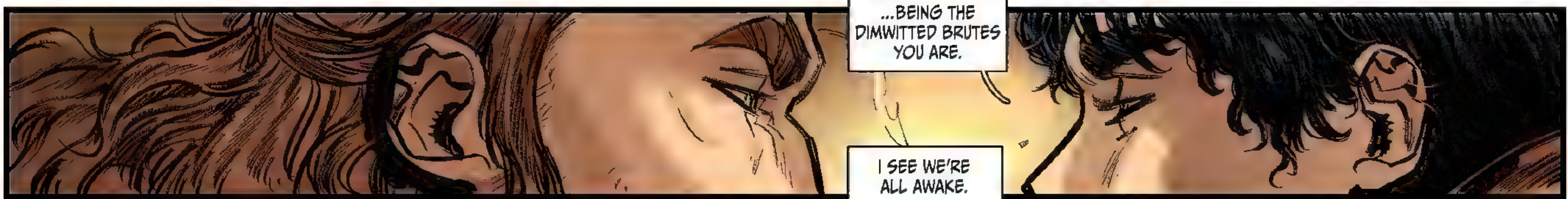


OR BEING HIGHBORN, LIKE YOU AND YOUR MONK BROTHERS. THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH BOOKS.



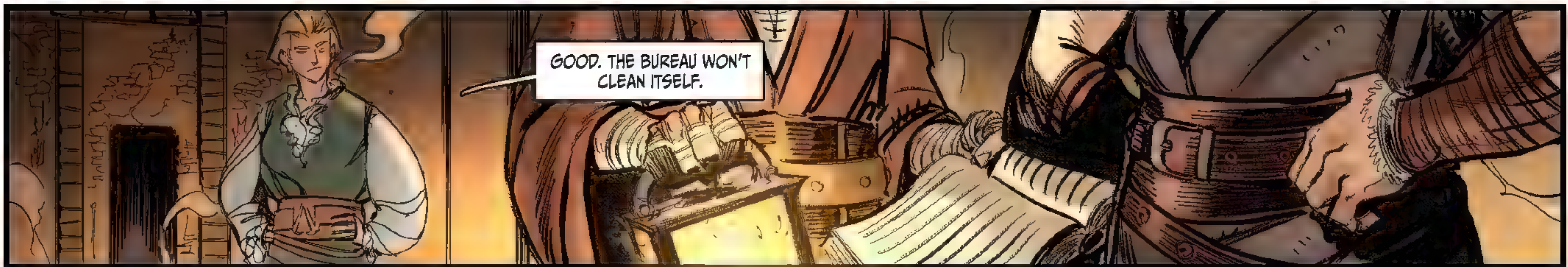
YOU TAKE KNOWLEDGE THAT IS OF USE TO EVERYONE AND LOCK IT AWAY IN AN OBJECT RESERVED FOR THE ELITE.

AND YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE BURN THAT KNOWLEDGE...

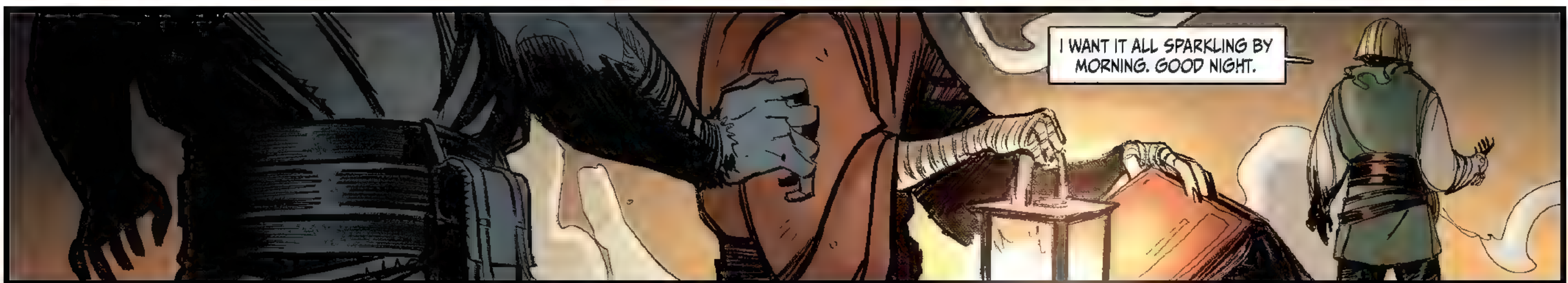


...BEING THE DIMWITTED BRUTES YOU ARE.

I SEE WE'RE ALL AWAKE.

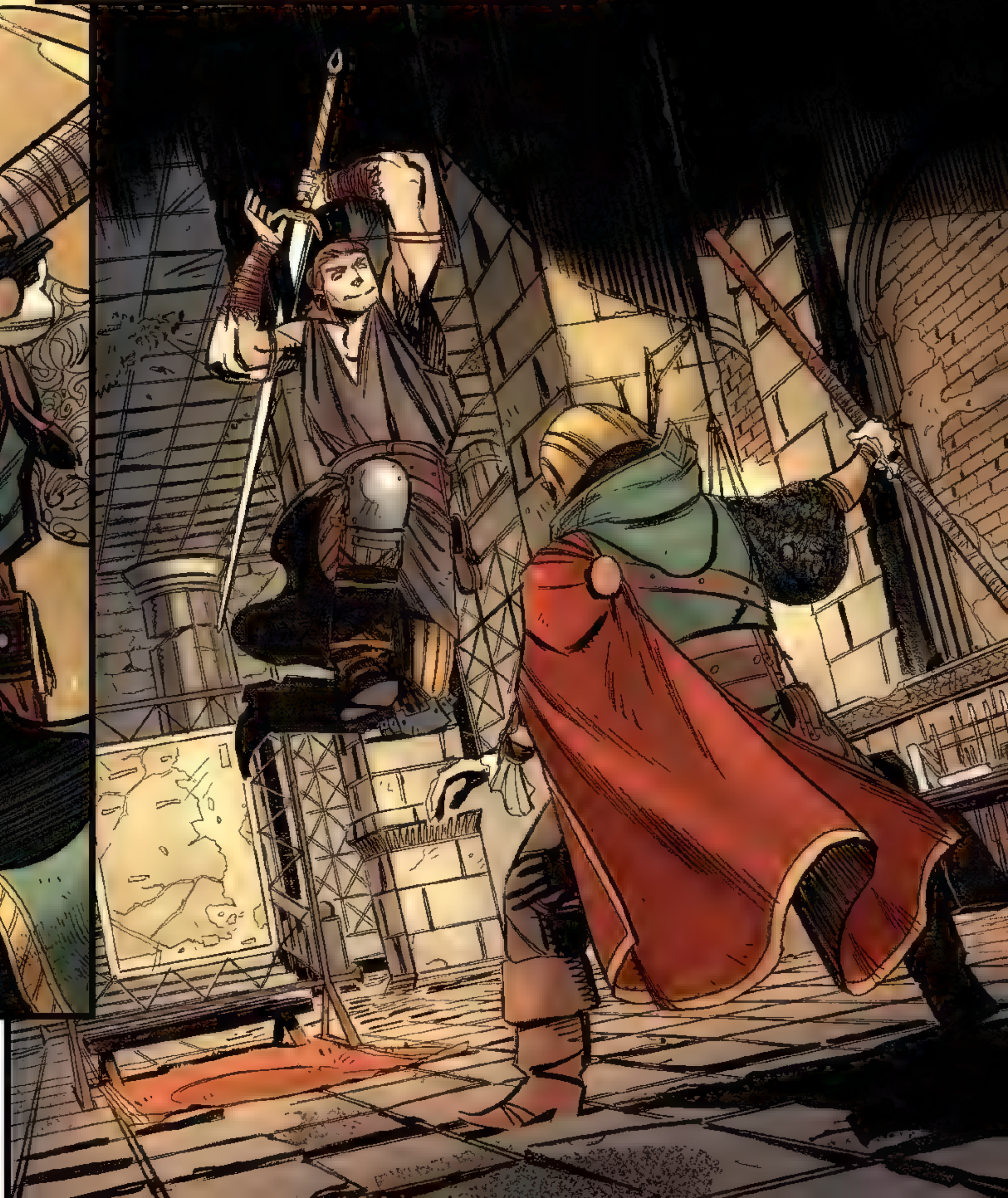
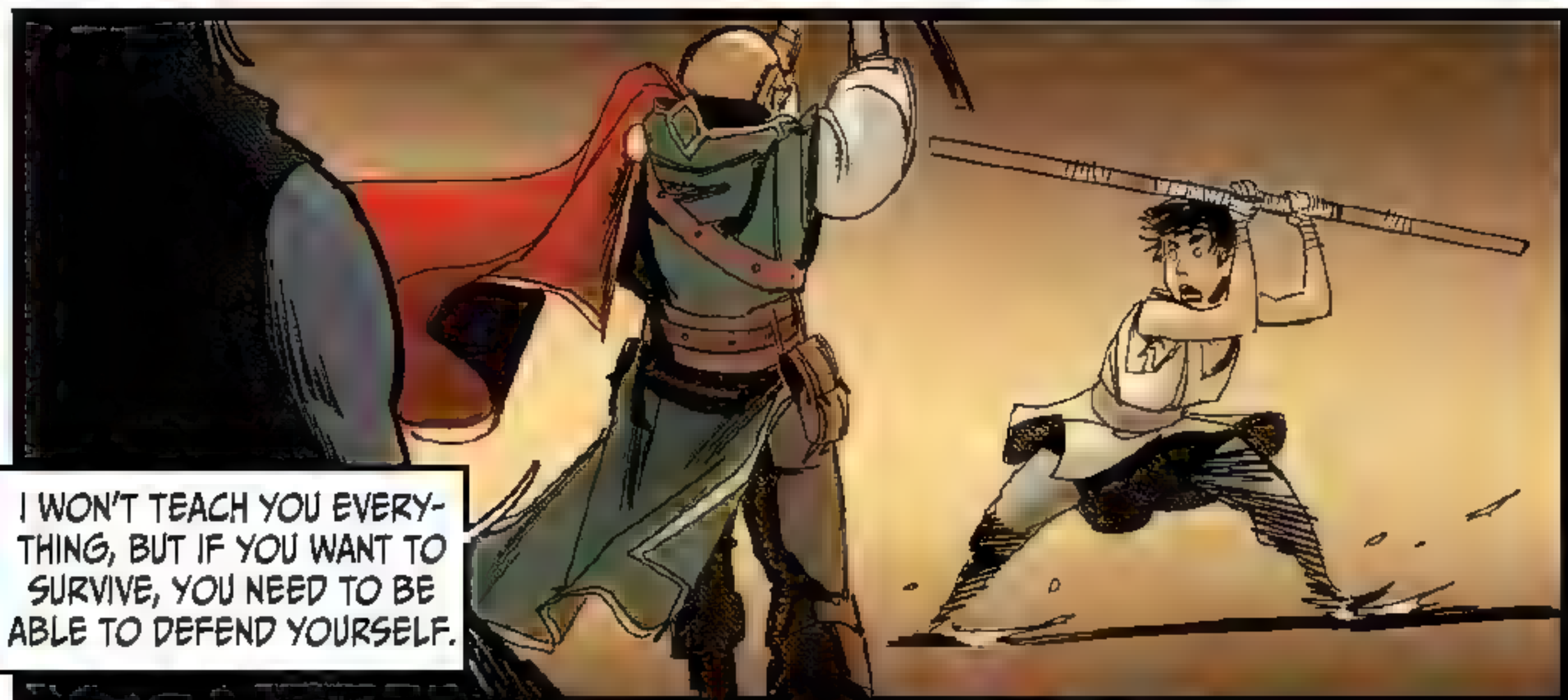
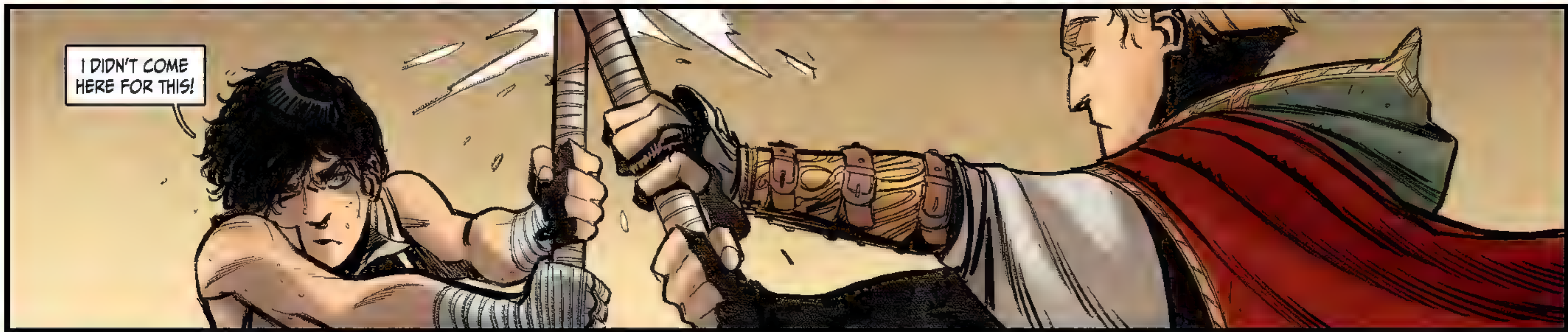


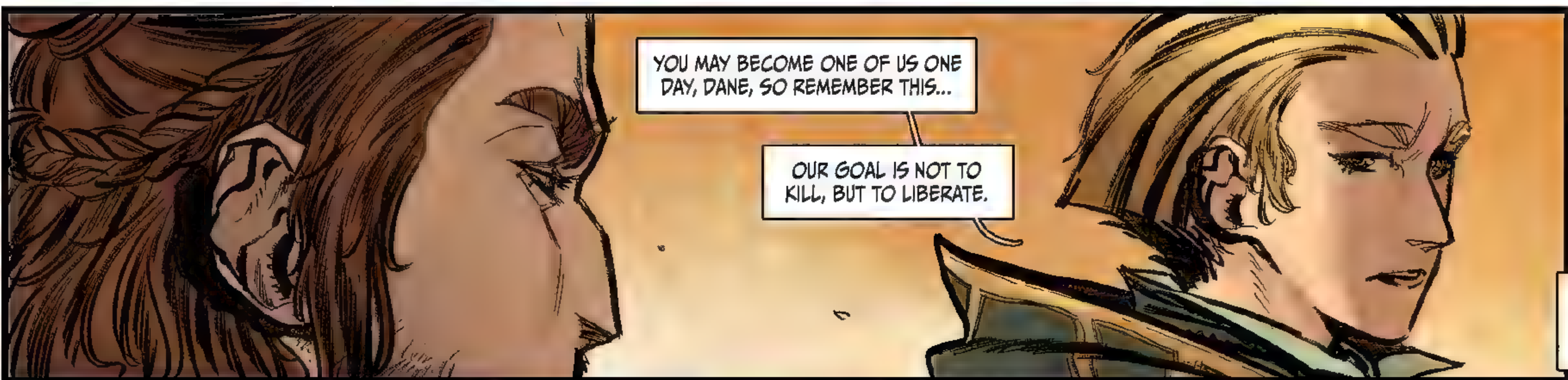
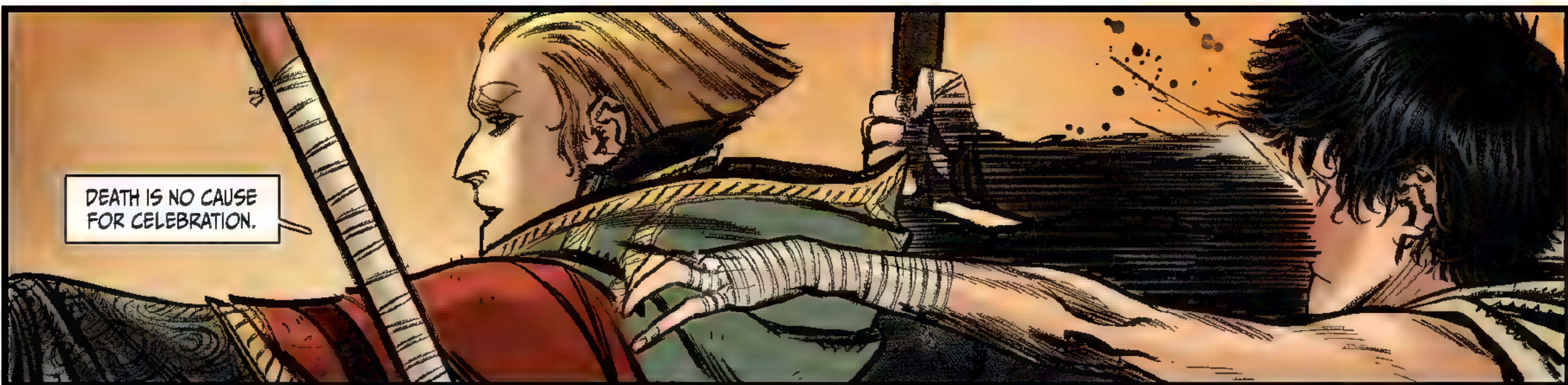
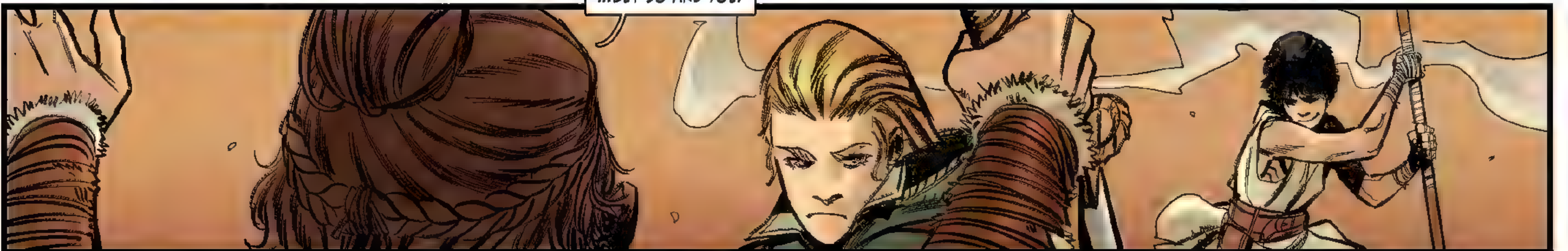
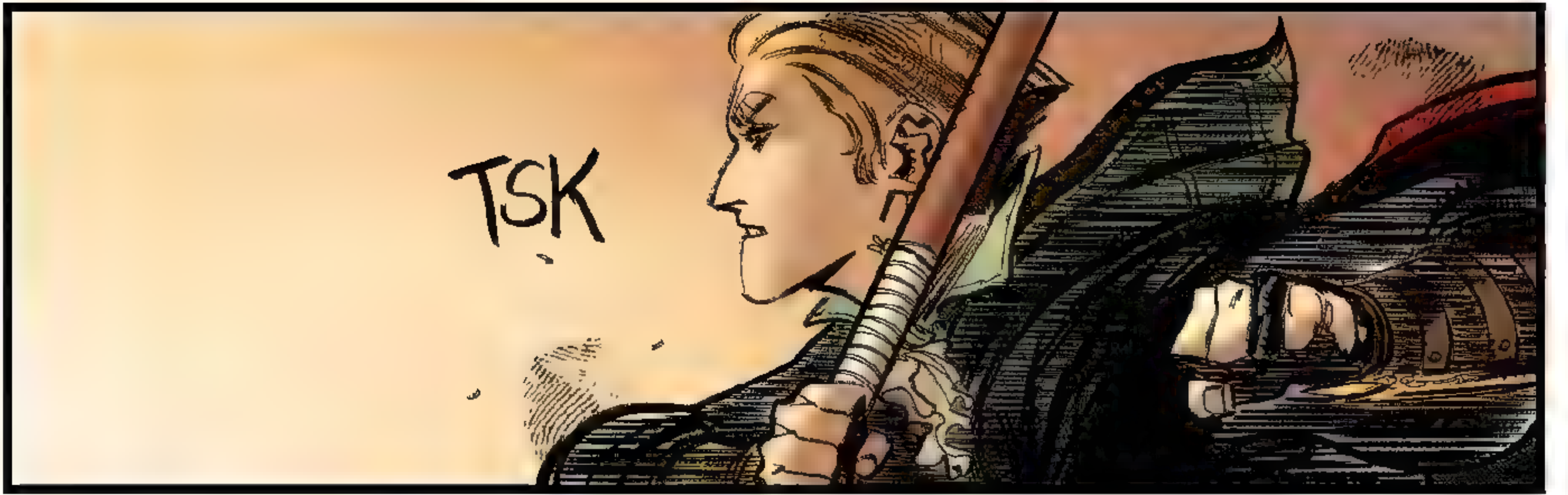
GOOD. THE BUREAU WON'T CLEAN ITSELF.



I WANT IT ALL SPARKLING BY MORNING. GOOD NIGHT.

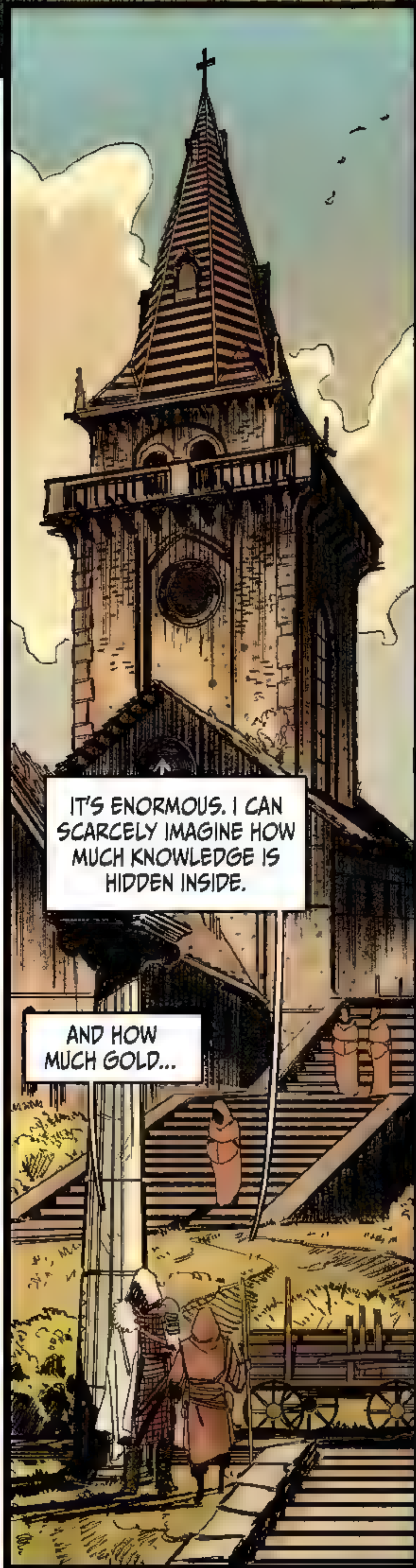
SPAM STAK TOK SWOOSH SLASH







WINCESTRE ABBEY.



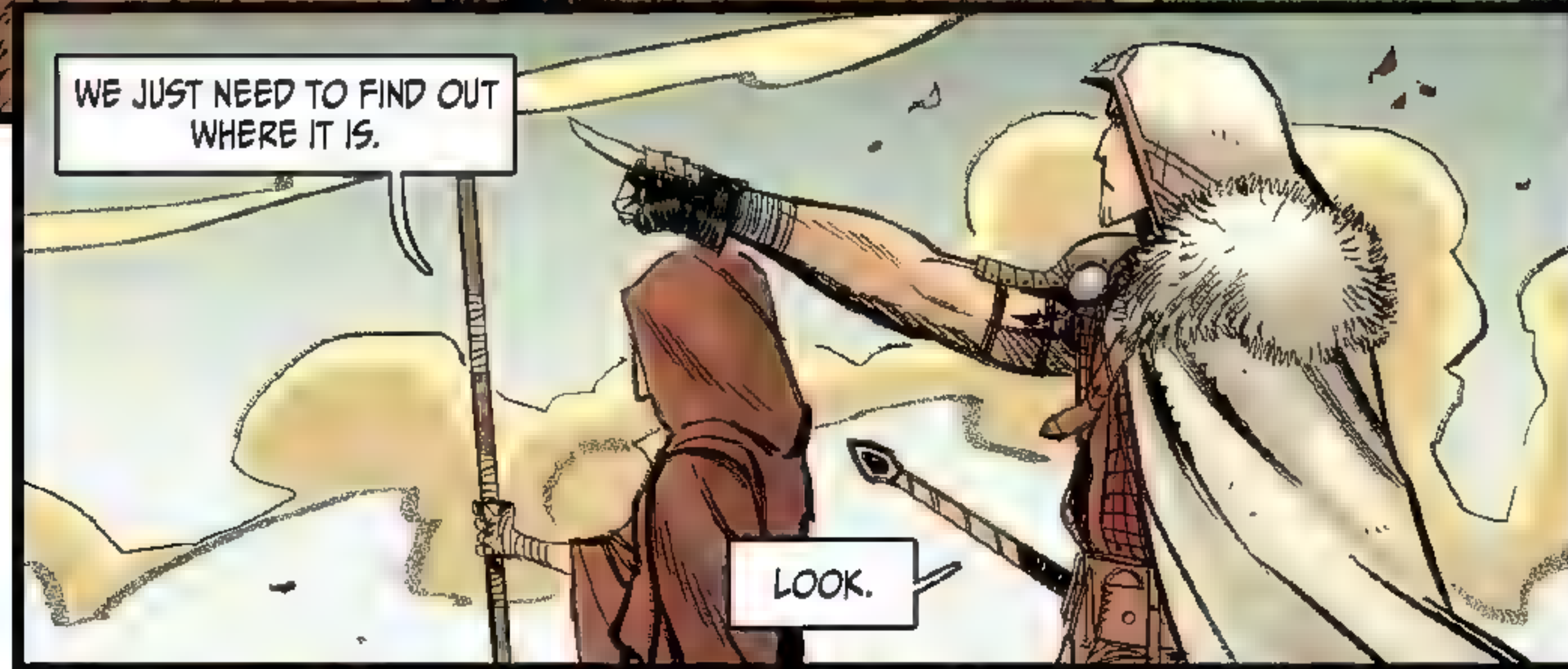
IT'S ENORMOUS. I CAN SCARCELY IMAGINE HOW MUCH KNOWLEDGE IS HIDDEN INSIDE.

AND HOW MUCH GOLD...



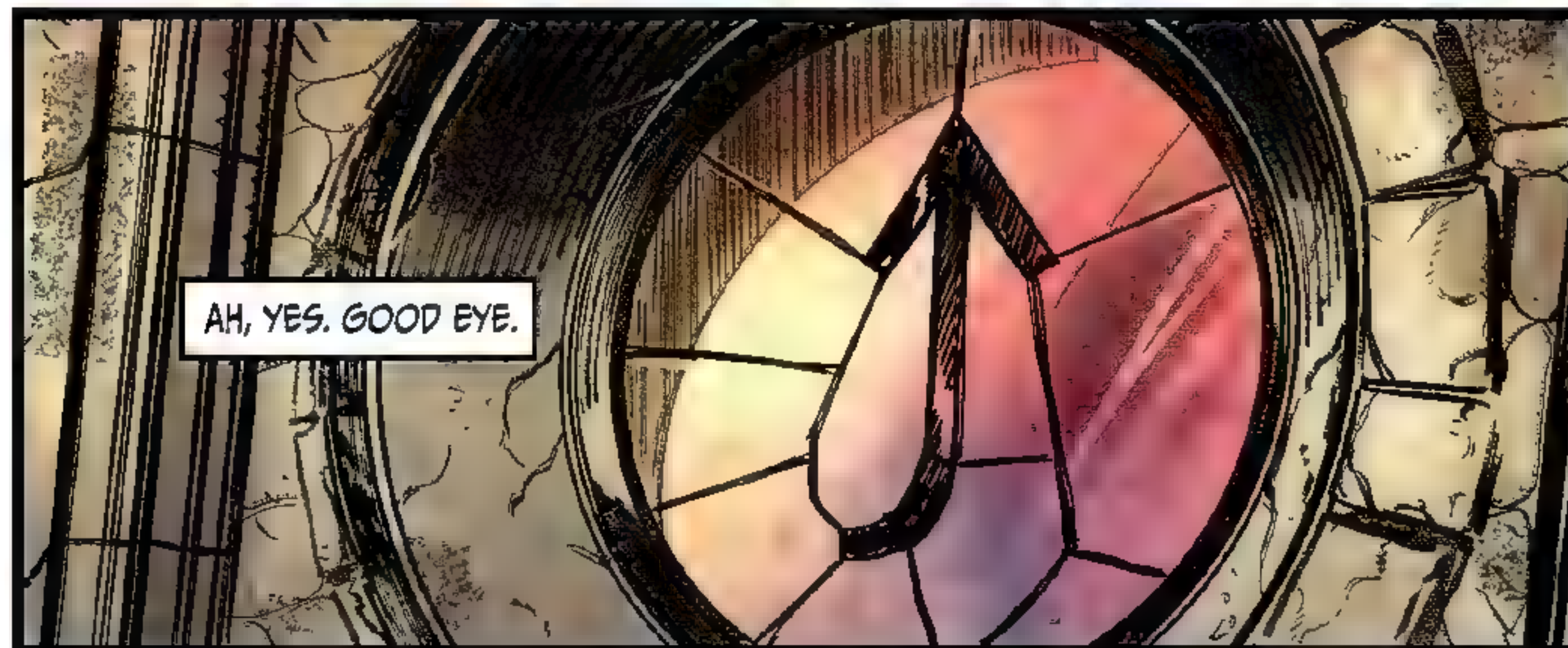
YOU'RE OBSESSED.

IN ANY EVENT, WE'RE NOT HERE FOR EITHER, BUT FOR THIS "SECRET" MEETING.

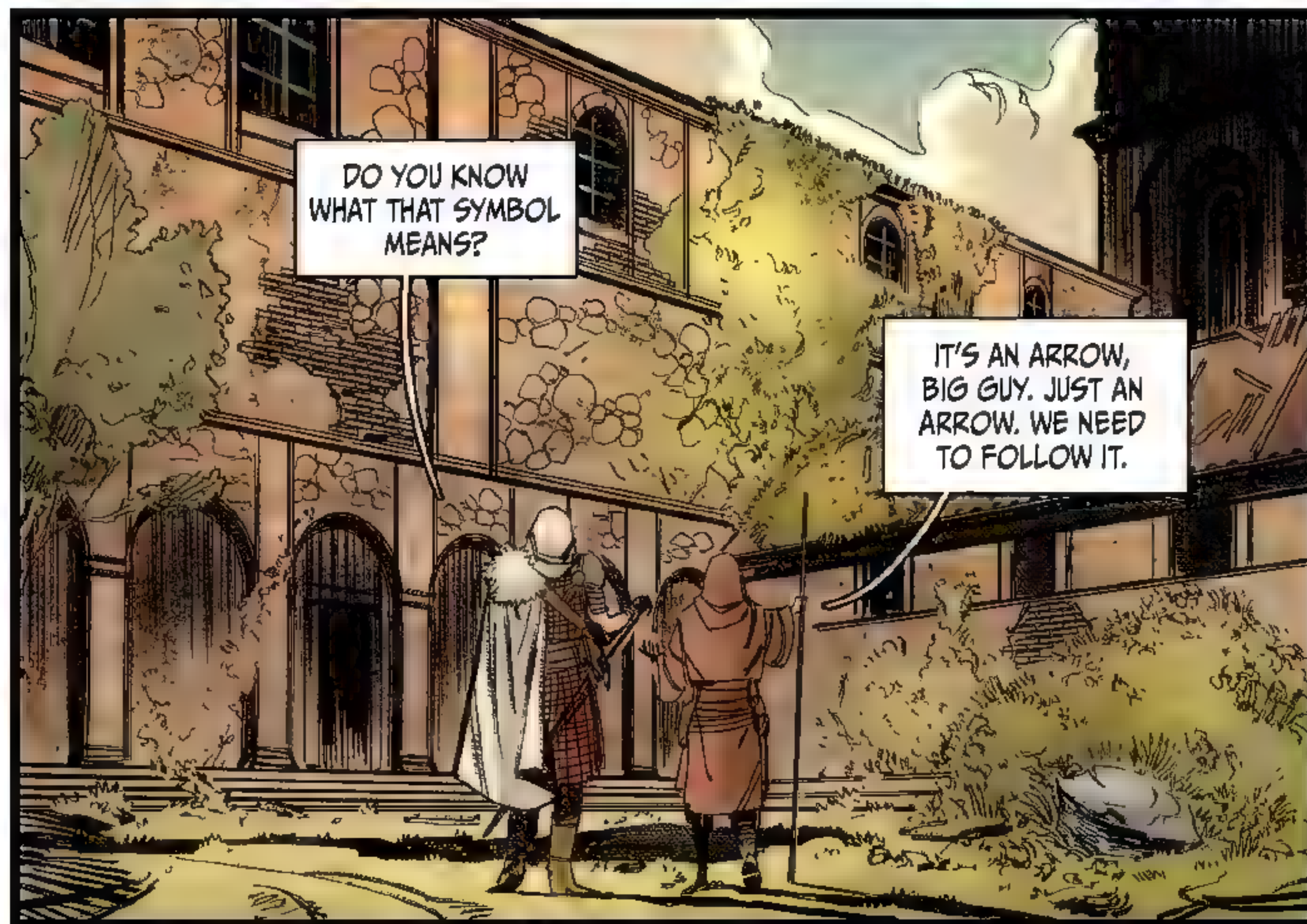


WE JUST NEED TO FIND OUT WHERE IT IS.

LOOK.



AH, YES. GOOD EYE.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT SYMBOL MEANS?

IT'S AN ARROW, BIG GUY. JUST AN ARROW. WE NEED TO FOLLOW IT.



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD...

BY THE HAMMER OF THOR...

DON'T BURN ANYTHING LIKE YOU NORMALLY DO.

START BEGGING LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.



WOW...ALL THE GREATEST GREEK THINKERS ARE HERE! ARISTOTLE, HOMER, HIPPOCRATES...



AND HERE ARE THE ROMANS! PLINY, GALEN, VITRUVIUS!!

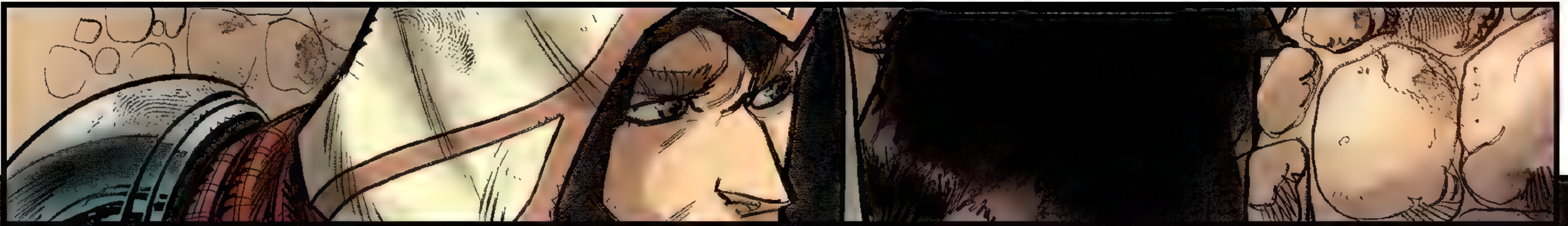


INCREDIBLE. EXTRAORDINARY. AMAZING.



CLAK





PEACE OF THE
REBORN.

READ.

ER...THE...THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD ARE...
RIGHT, GIVING JOY TO THE HEART. THE...THE
COMMANDS OF THE LORD ARE RADIANT--"



YOUR MARK.

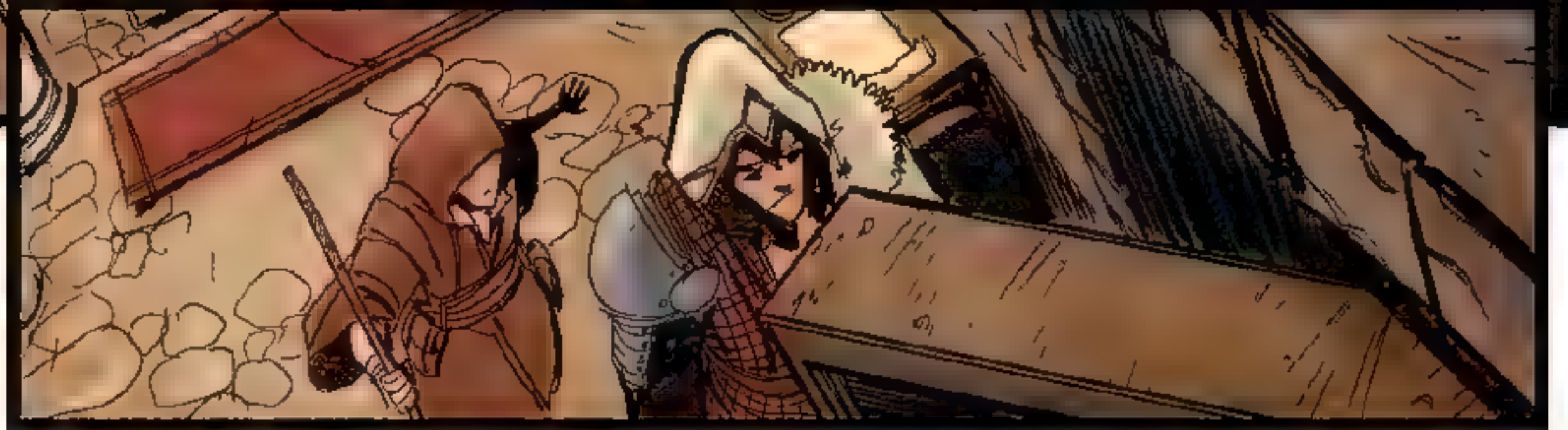
OH, ER...THIS?

ENTER.
YOU'RE LATE.



C'MON!

HEY!



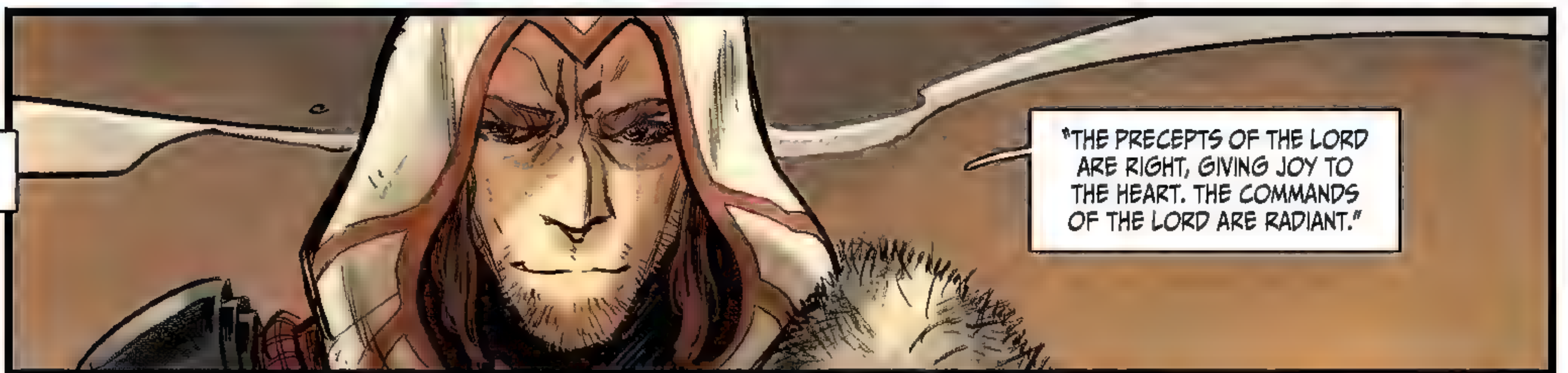
IT'S HERE.



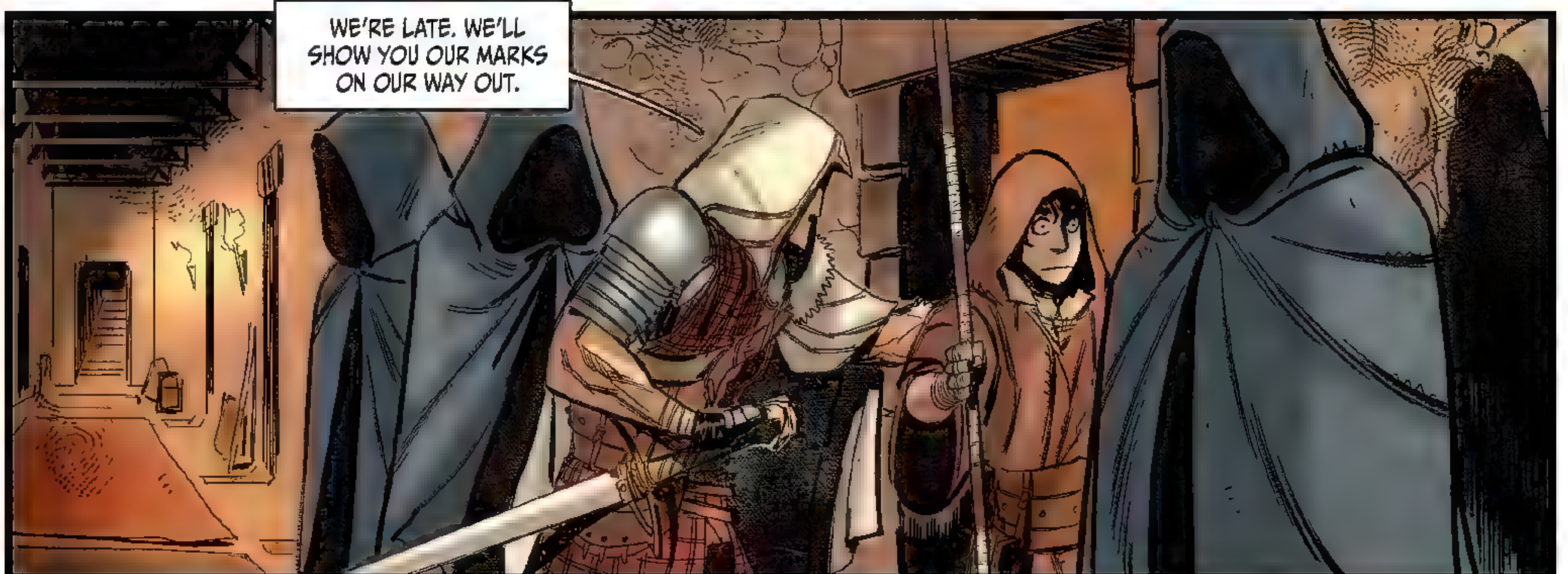
PEACE OF
THE REBORN.

READ.

HUH? ER...WELL, I
THINK THAT--



"THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD
ARE RIGHT, GIVING JOY TO
THE HEART. THE COMMANDS
OF THE LORD ARE RADIANT."




WE'RE LATE. WE'LL
SHOW YOU OUR MARKS
ON OUR WAY OUT.



OUR MARKS?
WHAT MARK--



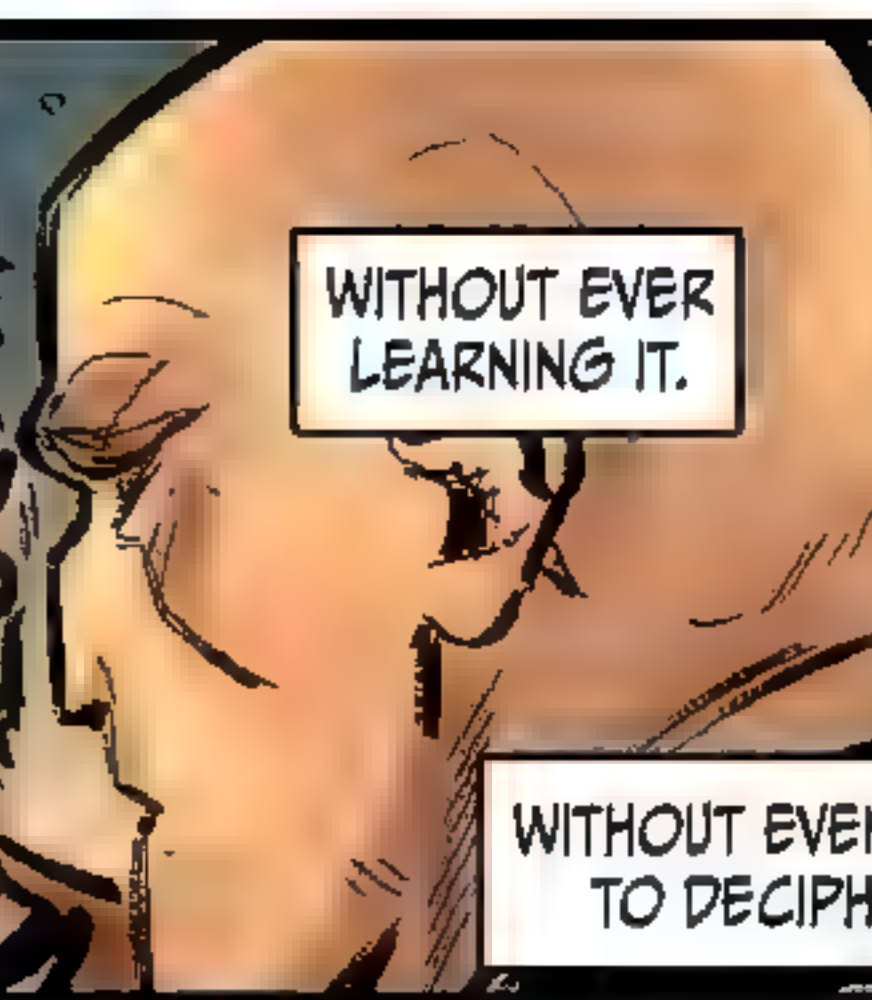
OKAY. LET'S BEGIN.



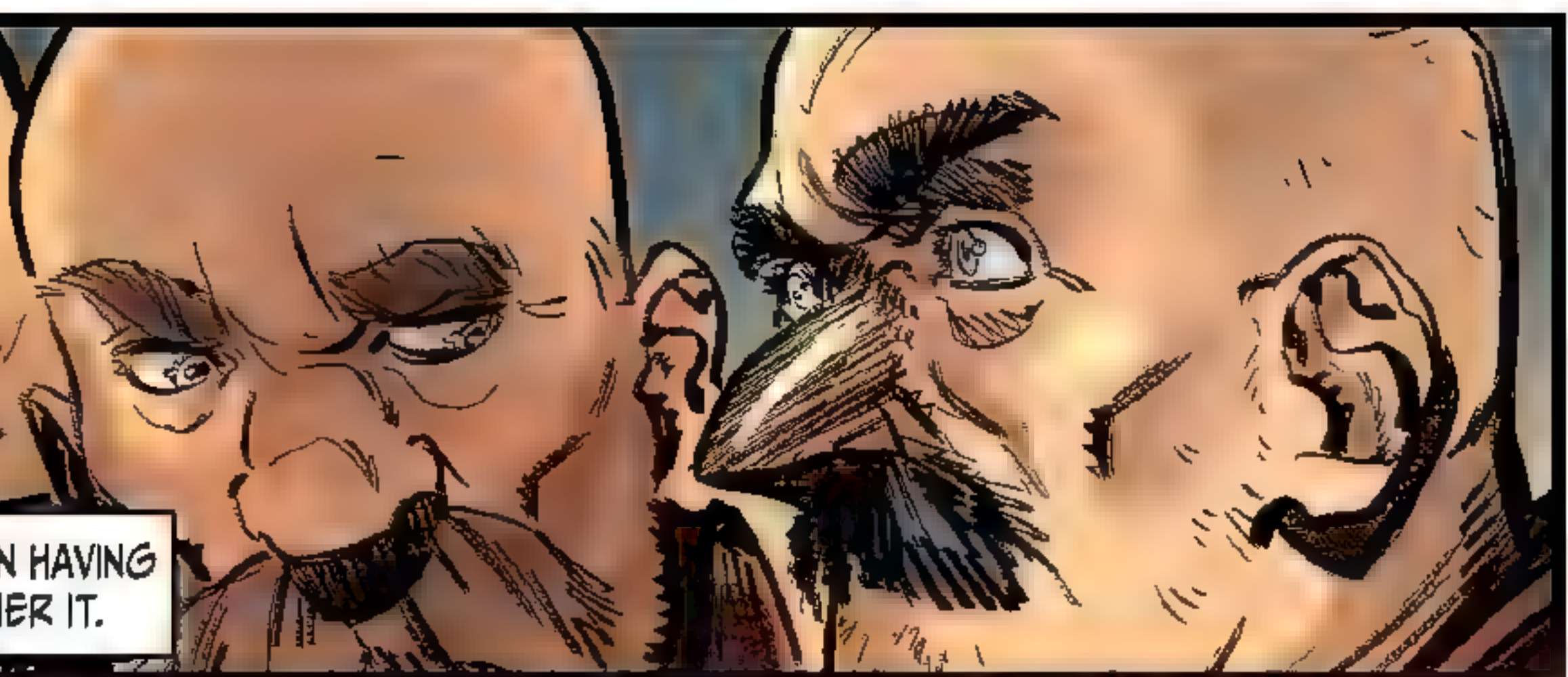
IF YOU ARE HERE, THAT MEANS YOU RECEIVED A
MESSAGE. A MESSAGE WRITTEN IN A SEPULCHRAL,
FORGOTTEN LANGUAGE. A LANGUAGE THAT NONE
OF YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND.



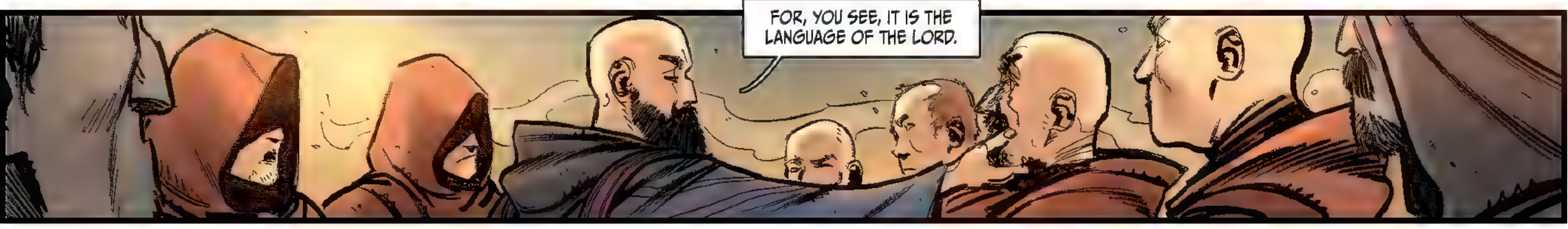
AND YET YOU CAN ALL
READ IT.



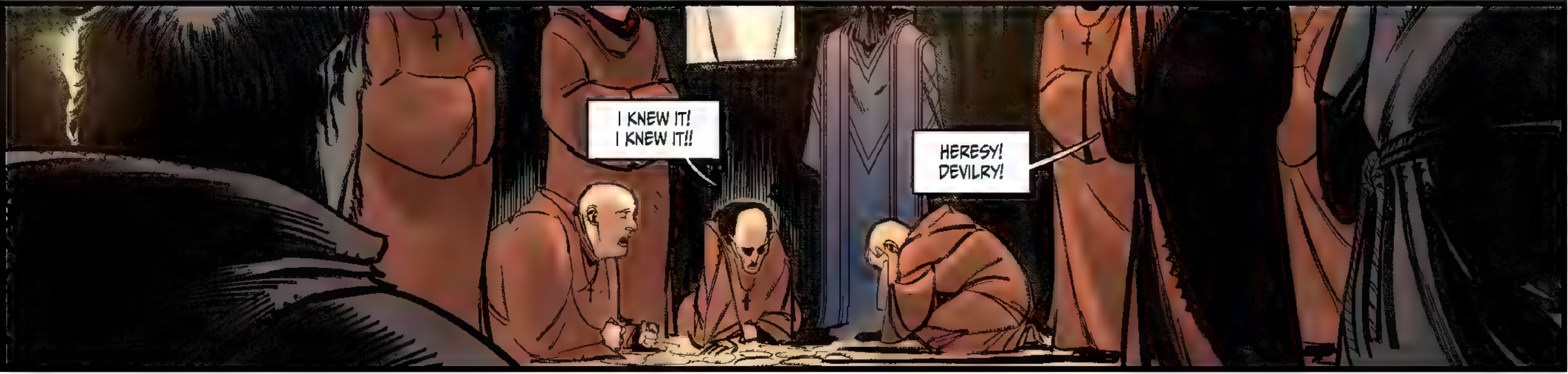
WITHOUT EVER
LEARNING IT.



WITHOUT EVEN HAVING
TO DECIPHER IT.



FOR, YOU SEE, IT IS THE
LANGUAGE OF THE LORD.

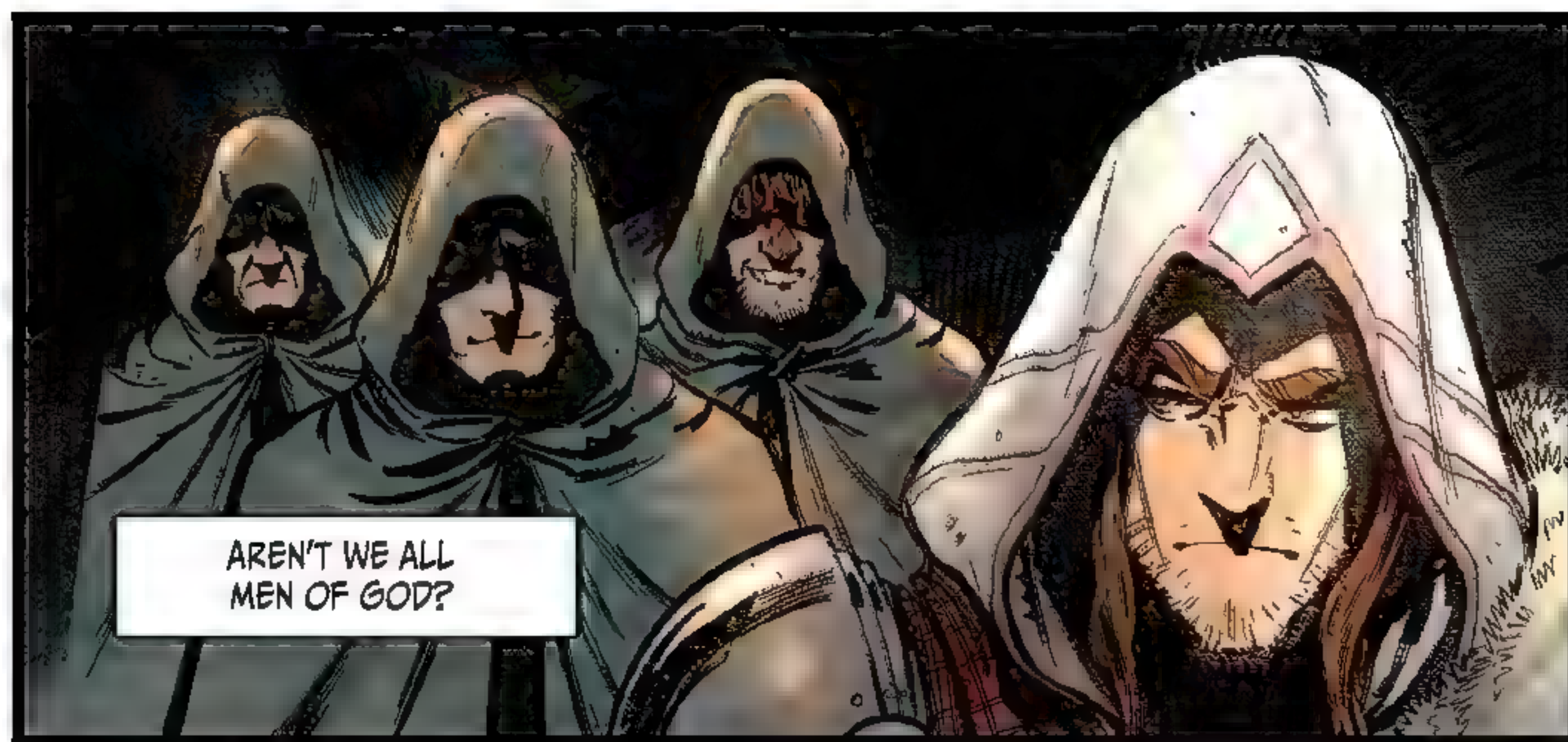


I KNEW IT!
I KNEW IT!!

HERESY!
DEVILRY!



HOW COULD IT BE HERESY, MY BROTHER?



AREN'T WE ALL MEN OF GOD?

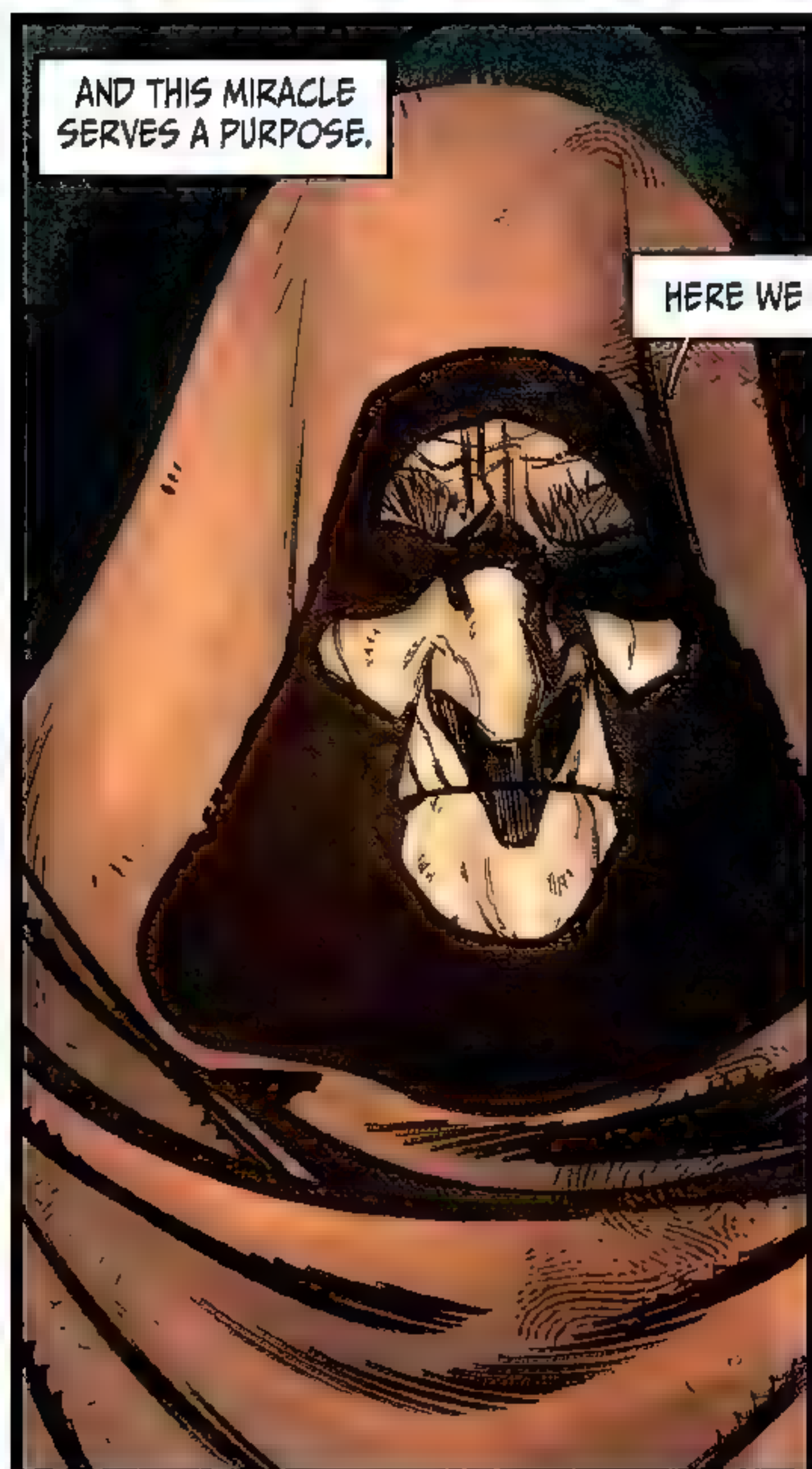


HOW WILL YOU EVER EXPLAIN TO YOUR FLOCK OR TO OTHER MEN OF THE CHURCH...



...THAT YOU, HIS DISCIPLES, ARE ABLE TO READ A SORCERER'S LANGUAGE?

NO, MY BROTHERS. IT'S A MIRACLE, AND NOTHING MORE.



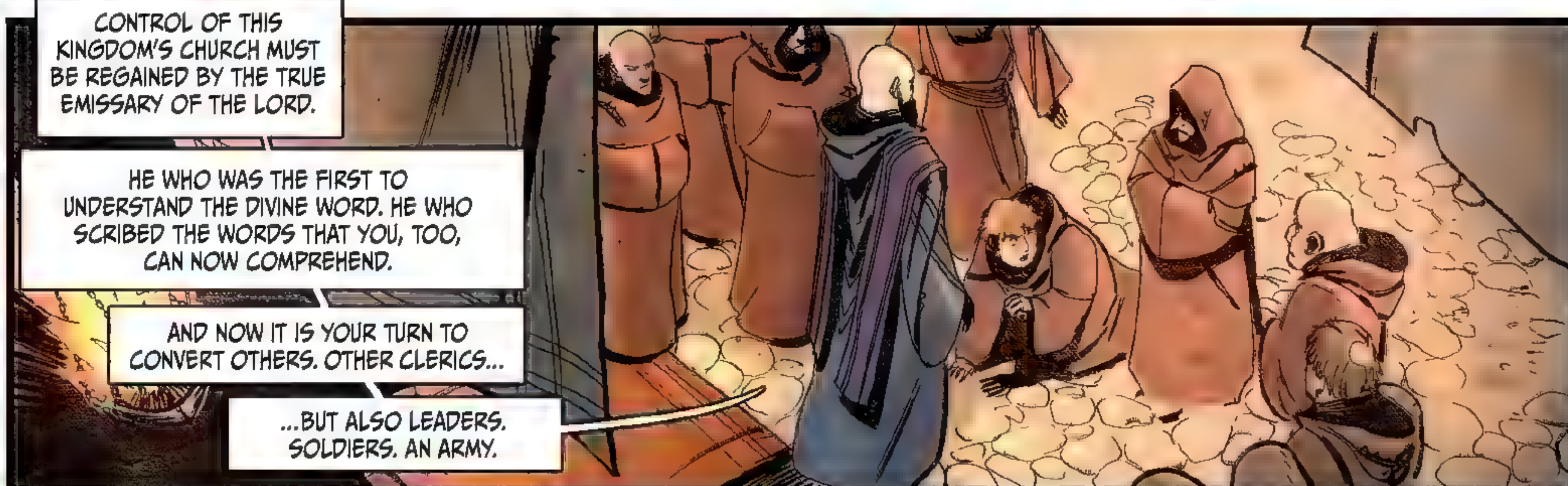
AND THIS MIRACLE SERVES A PURPOSE.

HERE WE GO...



GOD TOLD YOU IN THOSE MESSAGES. HE'S UNHAPPY WITH HOW OUR CHURCH IS BEING LED.

HE DOESN'T LIKE ROME'S STRANGLEHOLD ON HIS HOUSE. NOR THE RISING GRIP OF KING AELFRED.



CONTROL OF THIS KINGDOM'S CHURCH MUST BE REGAINED BY THE TRUE EMISSARY OF THE LORD.

HE WHO WAS THE FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THE DIVINE WORD. HE WHO SCRIBED THE WORDS THAT YOU, TOO, CAN NOW COMPREHEND.

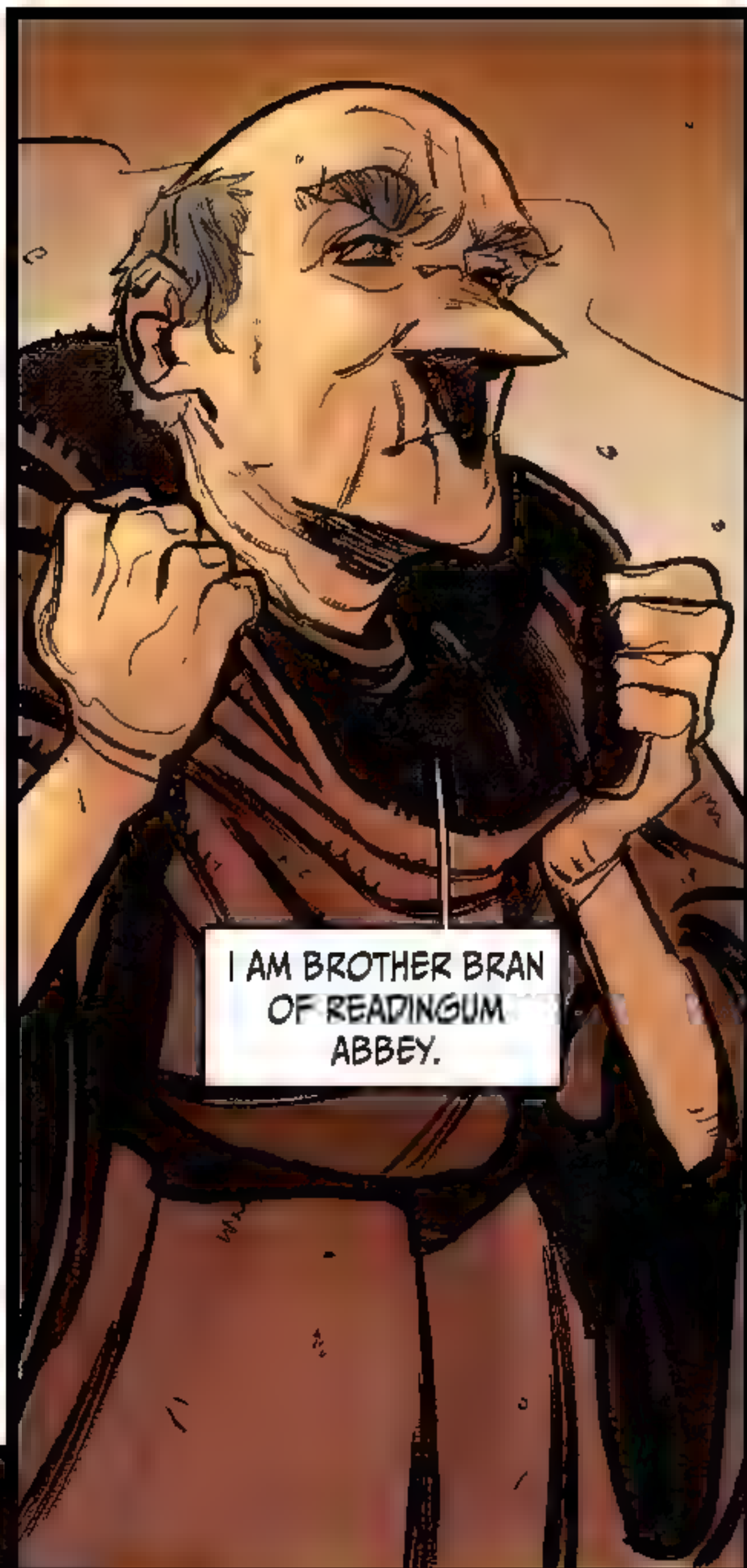
AND NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO CONVERT OTHERS. OTHER CLERICS...

...BUT ALSO LEADERS. SOLDIERS. AN ARMY.

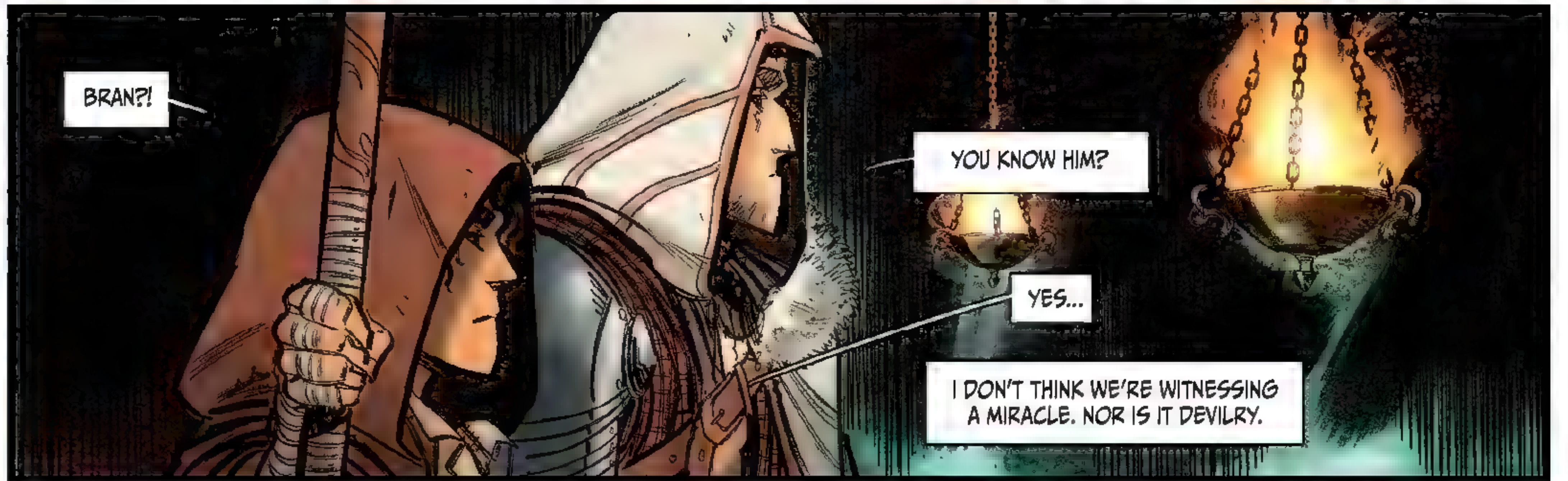


ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO THIS? TO BUILD AN ARMY OF NEW FAITHFUL USING THE WORD OF GOD?

NO.



I AM BROTHER BRAN
OF READINGUM
ABBAY.

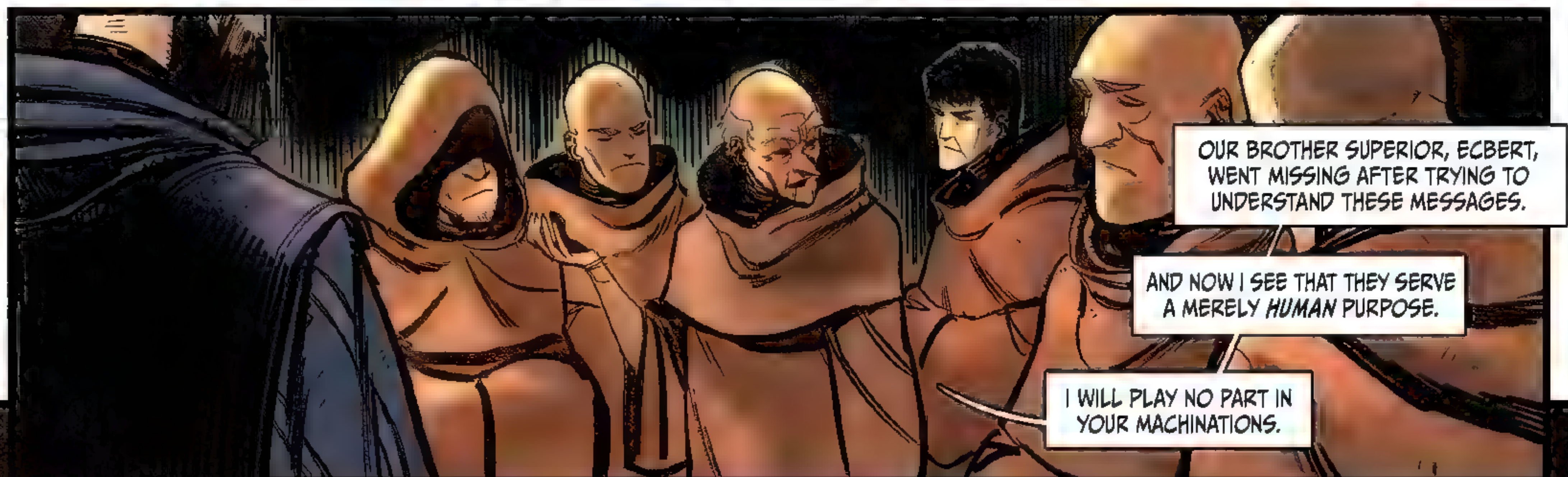


BRAN?!

YOU KNOW HIM?

YES...

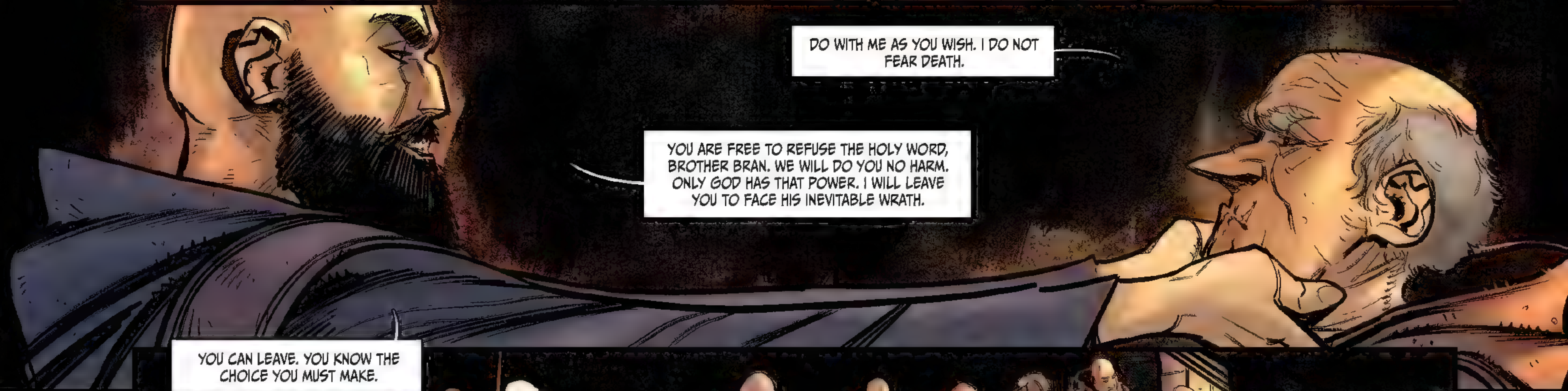
I DON'T THINK WE'RE WITNESSING
A MIRACLE. NOR IS IT DEVILRY.



OUR BROTHER SUPERIOR, ECBERT,
WENT MISSING AFTER TRYING TO
UNDERSTAND THESE MESSAGES.

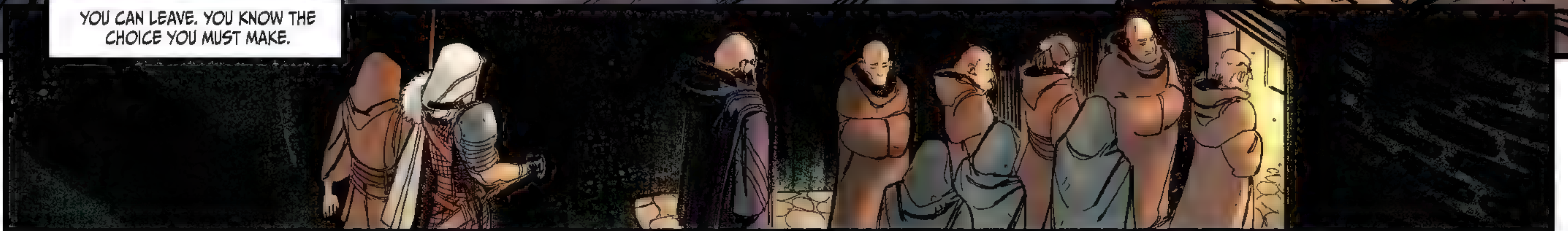
AND NOW I SEE THAT THEY SERVE
A MERELY HUMAN PURPOSE.

I WILL PLAY NO PART IN
YOUR MACHINATIONS.



DO WITH ME AS YOU WISH. I DO NOT
FEAR DEATH.

YOU ARE FREE TO REFUSE THE HOLY WORD,
BROTHER BRAN. WE WILL DO YOU NO HARM.
ONLY GOD HAS THAT POWER. I WILL LEAVE
YOU TO FACE HIS INEVITABLE WRATH.



YOU CAN LEAVE. YOU KNOW THE
CHOICE YOU MUST MAKE.



OUR FRIENDS DIDN'T
CHECK OUR MARKS.

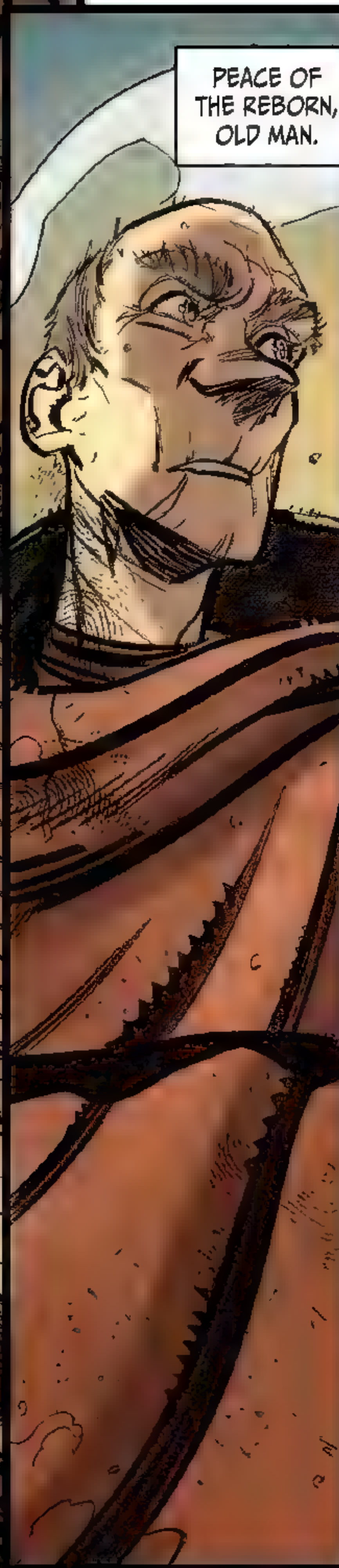


THEY HAVE BETTER
THINGS TO DO.



LIKE KILLING
BRAN...

THEY JUST
DIDN'T WANT TO
DO IT IN FRONT
OF THE OTHERS!



PEACE OF
THE REBORN,
OLD MAN.



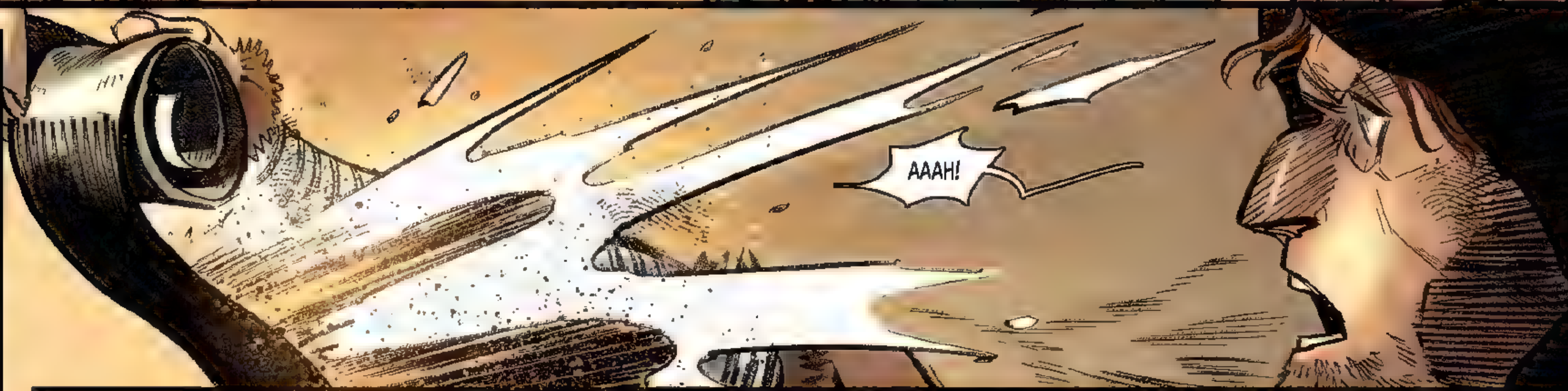
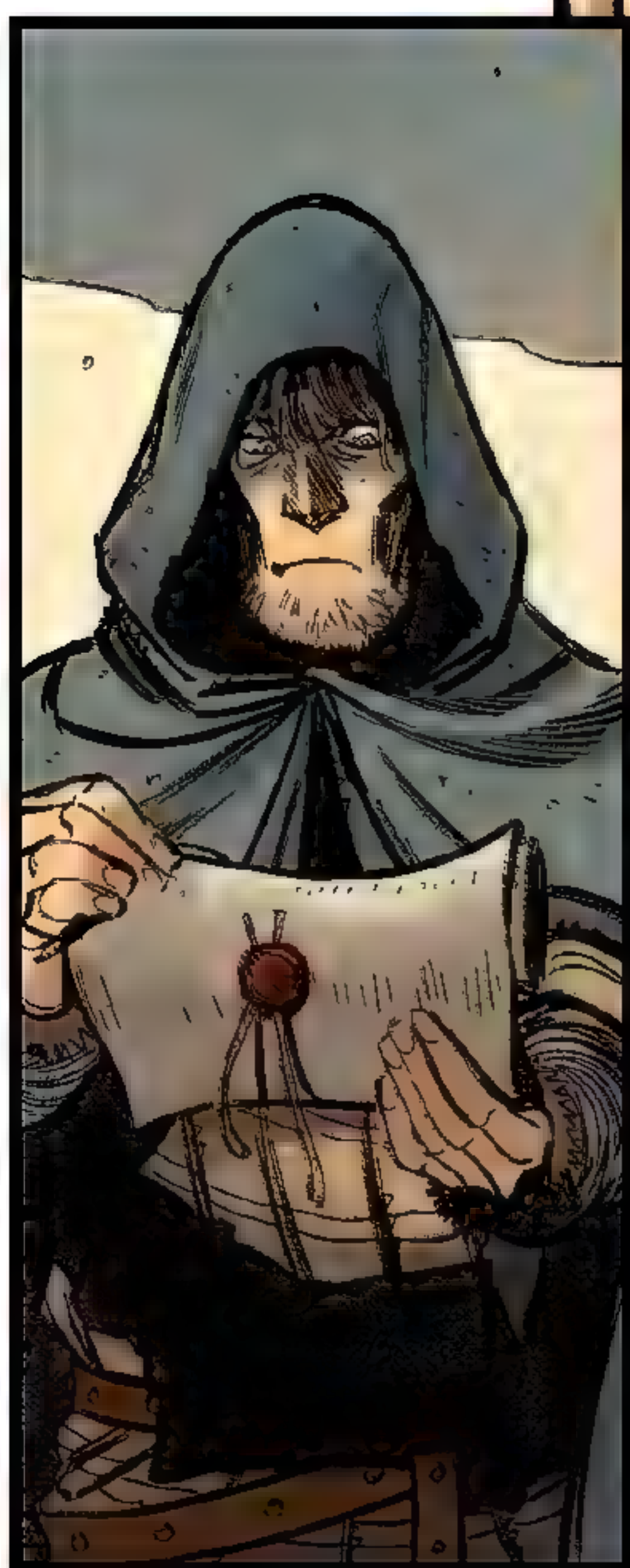
NOW MORE THAN EVER, FOR
HE HAS COME FOR YOU.



ACTUALLY...NO.



I BRING NEW
ORDERS.



AAAH!



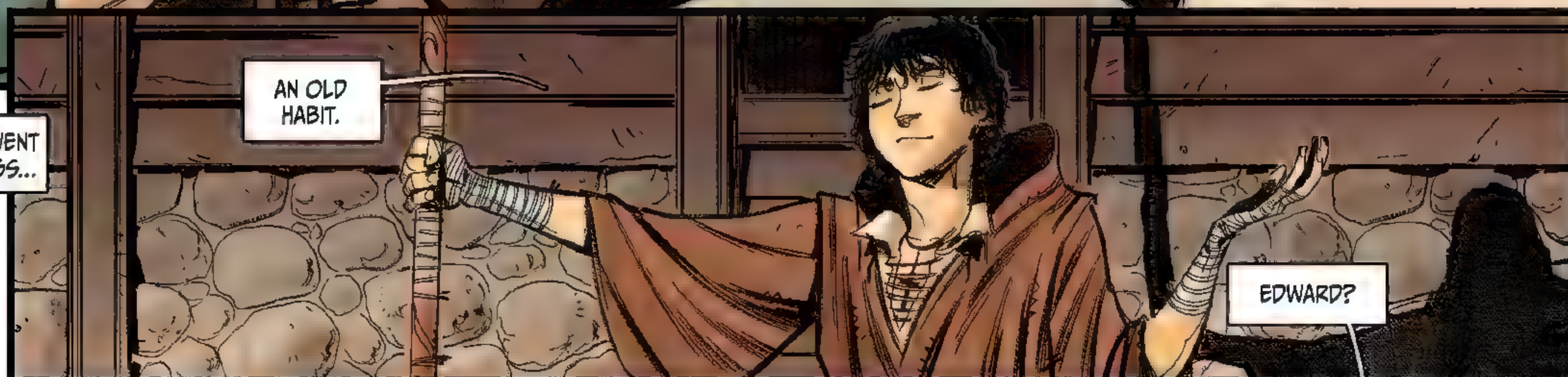


A BLINDING SCROLL.
NICE LITTLE TRICK.

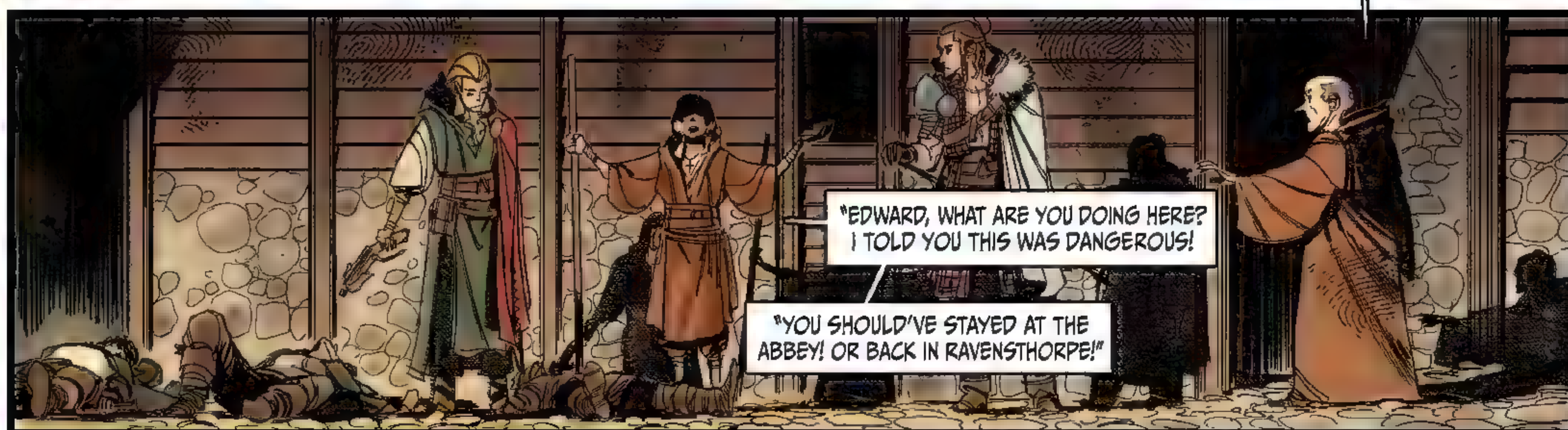
LOOKS LIKE YOU WENT
THROUGH MY THINGS...



AN OLD
HABIT.



EDWARD?



"EDWARD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS DANGEROUS!"

"YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED AT THE
ABBAY! OR BACK IN RAVENSTHORPE!"



AND YET I'M SAFER THAN
YOU ARE.

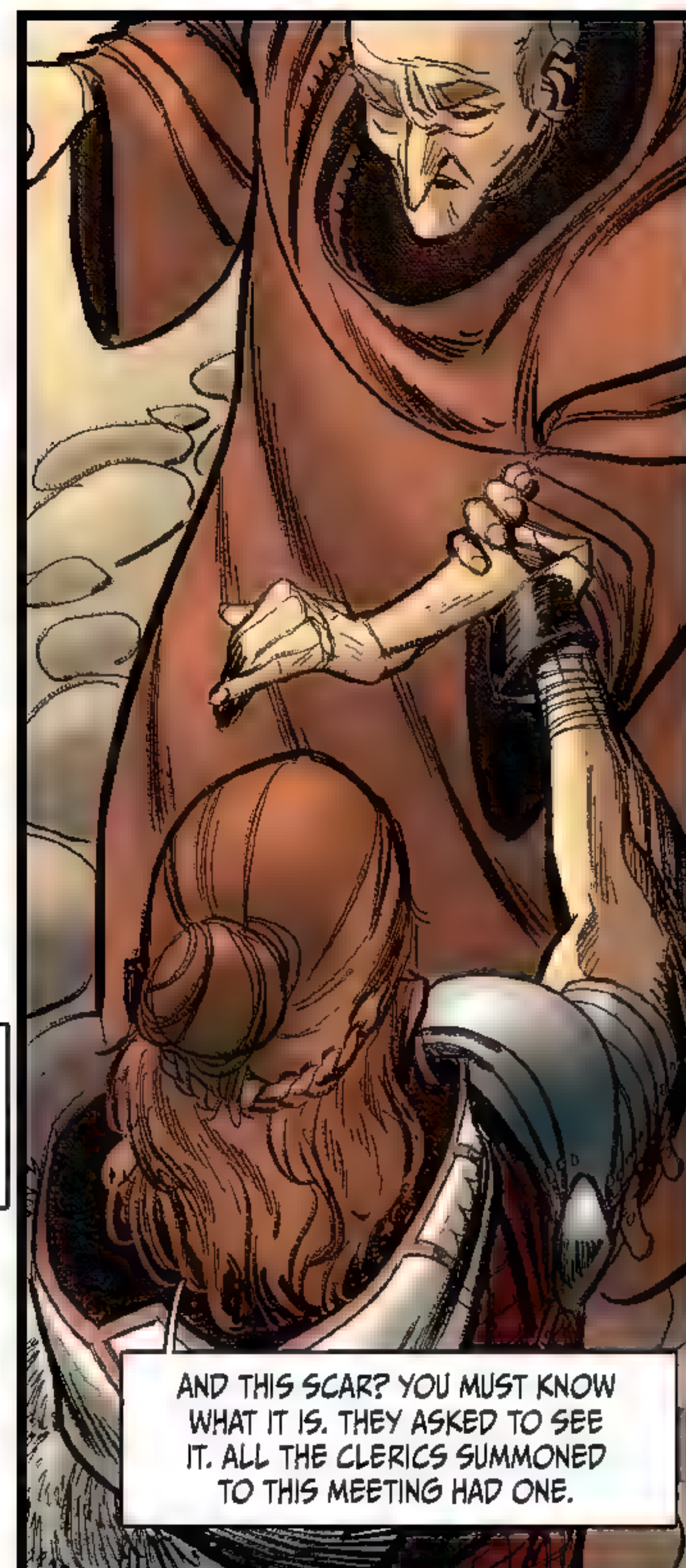
EDWARD...



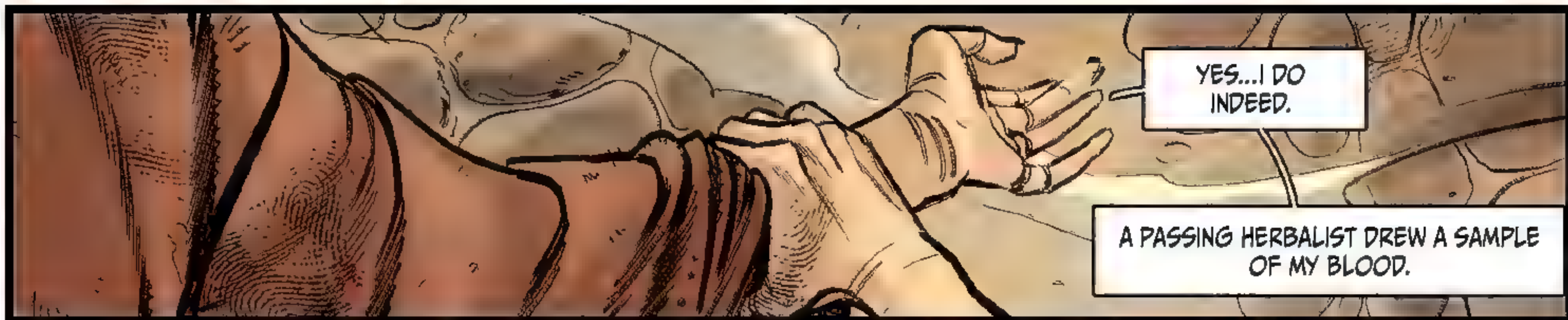
I'LL FIND ECBERT.
WHATEVER THE COST. BUT
YOU NEED TO TELL US WHAT
YOU KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING,
EDWARD! NOT WHO THOSE
MEN ARE, OR WHO SENT
THOSE MESSAGES.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT
THOSE STRANGE SYMBOLS
REQUESTED THAT I COME
HERE TODAY.



AND THIS SCAR? YOU MUST KNOW
WHAT IT IS. THEY ASKED TO SEE
IT. ALL THE CLERICS SUMMONED
TO THIS MEETING HAD ONE.



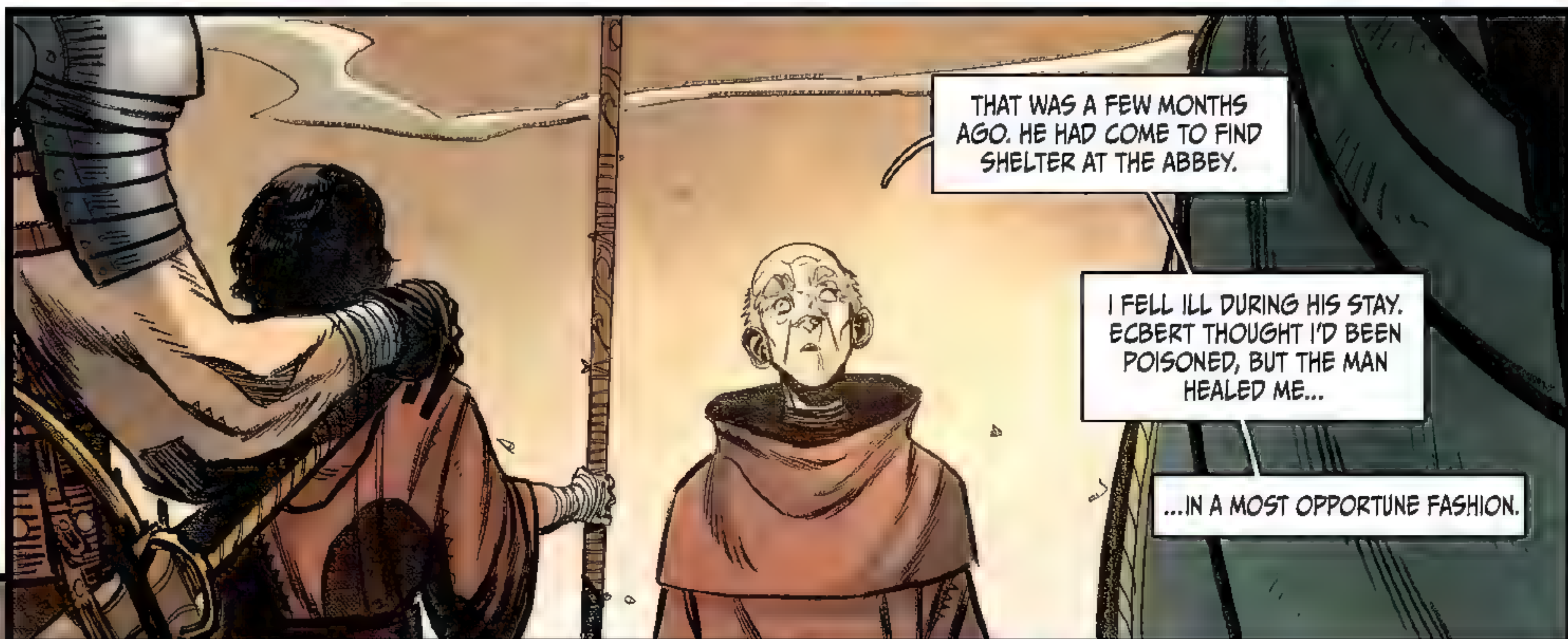
YES...I DO
INDEED.

A PASSING HERBALIST DREW A SAMPLE
OF MY BLOOD.



SO...YOUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN
GOING AROUND TO ALL THE
MONASTERIES ON THE ISLAND AND
DRAWING BLOOD FROM THE MONKS.

I HAVE NO IDEA.



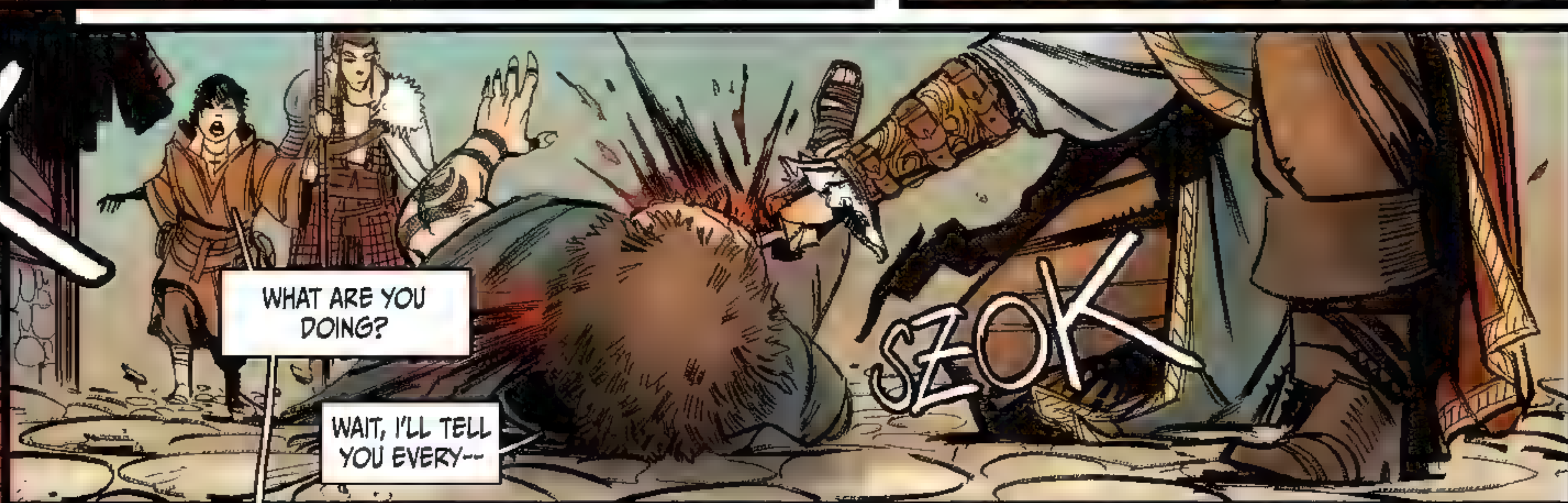
THAT WAS A FEW MONTHS
AGO. HE HAD COME TO FIND
SHELTER AT THE ABBEY.

I FELT ILL DURING HIS STAY.
ECBERT THOUGHT I'D BEEN
POISONED, BUT THE MAN
HEALED ME...

...IN A MOST OPPORTUNE FASHION.



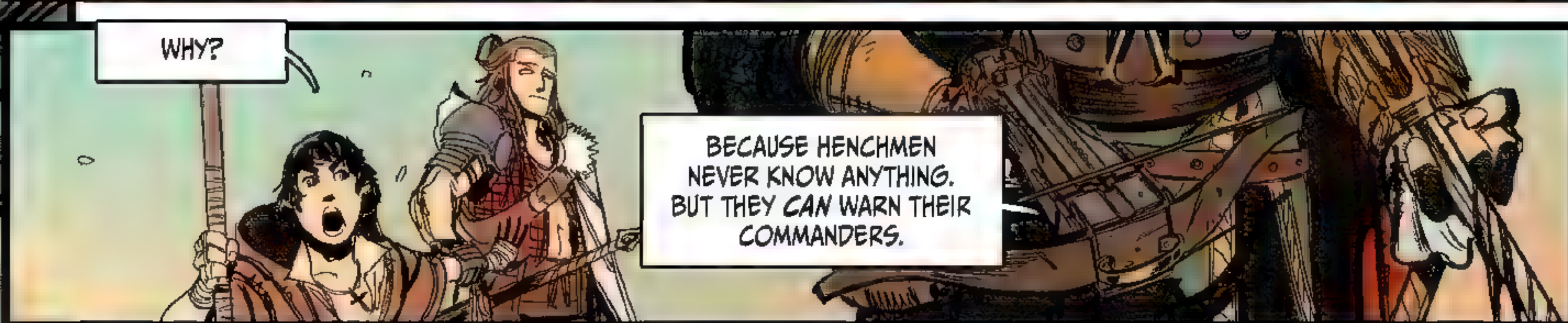
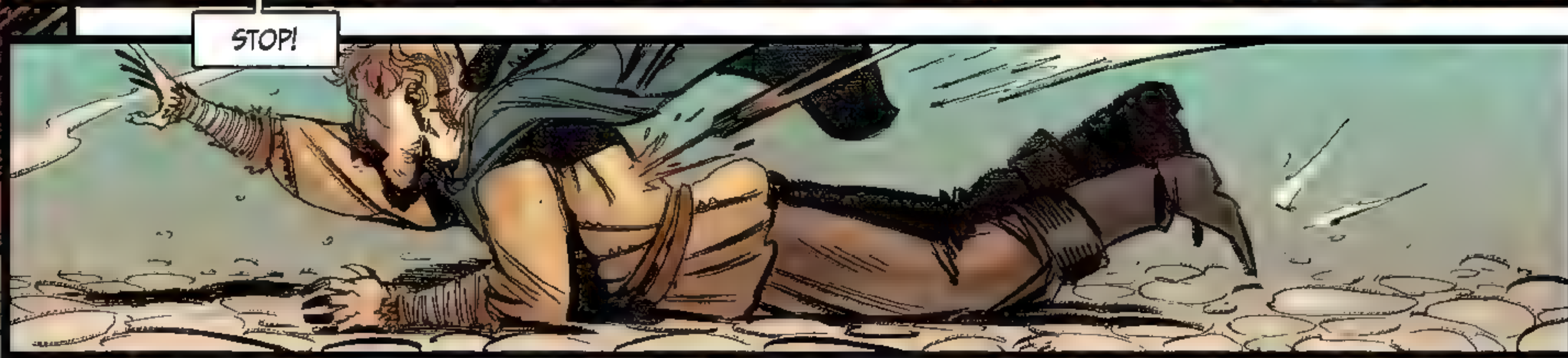
AS I THOUGHT.



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

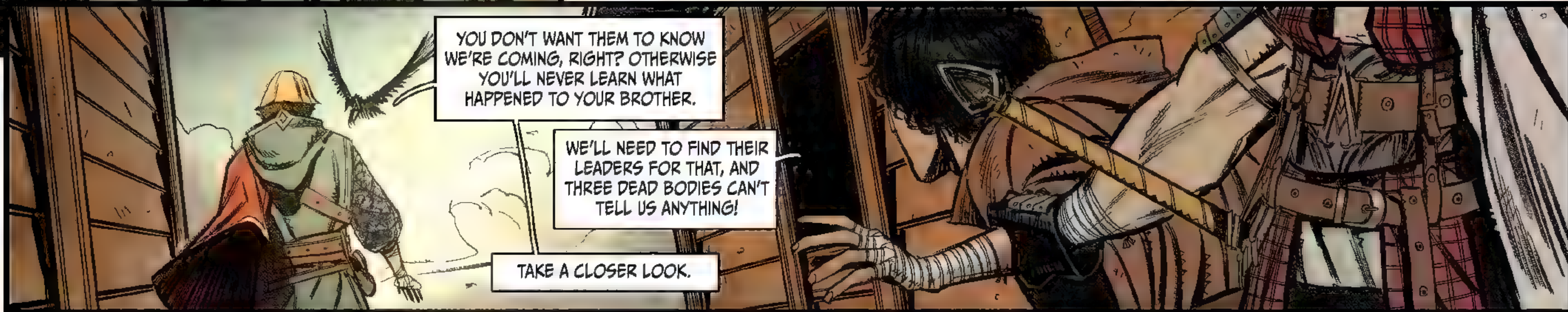
WAIT, I'LL TELL
YOU EVERY--

STOP!



WHY?

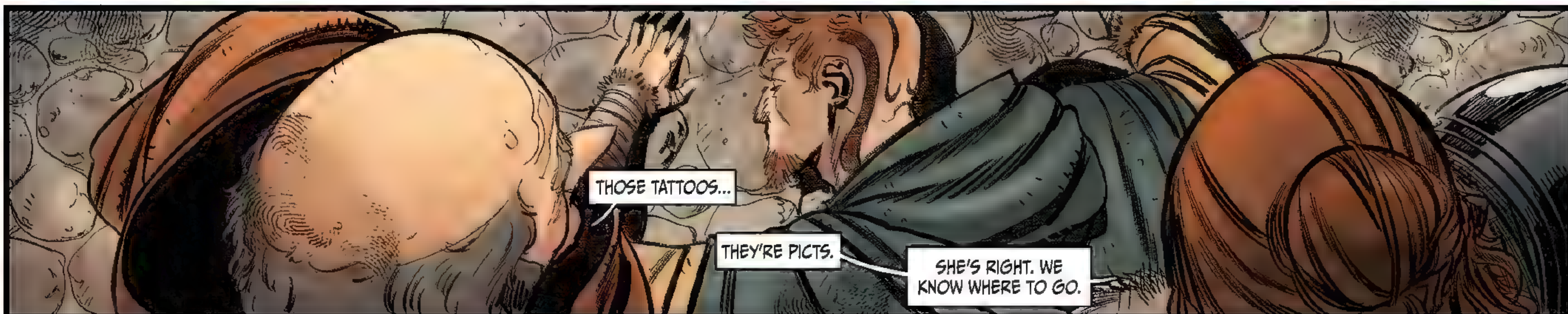
BECAUSE HENCHMEN
NEVER KNOW ANYTHING.
BUT THEY CAN WARN THEIR
COMMANDERS.



YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW
WE'RE COMING, RIGHT? OTHERWISE
YOU'LL NEVER LEARN WHAT
HAPPENED TO YOUR BROTHER.

WE'LL NEED TO FIND THEIR
LEADERS FOR THAT, AND
THREE DEAD BODIES CAN'T
TELL US ANYTHING!

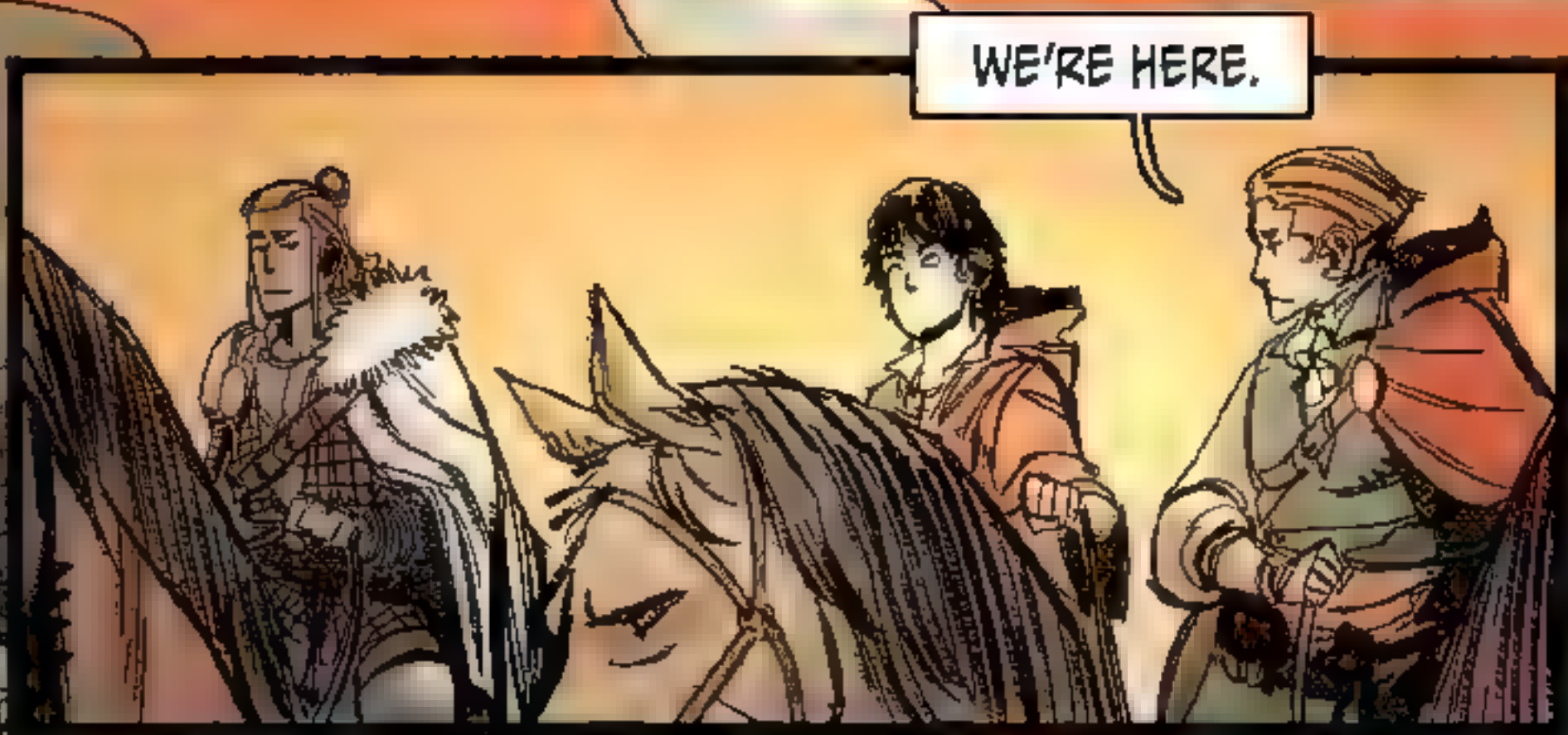
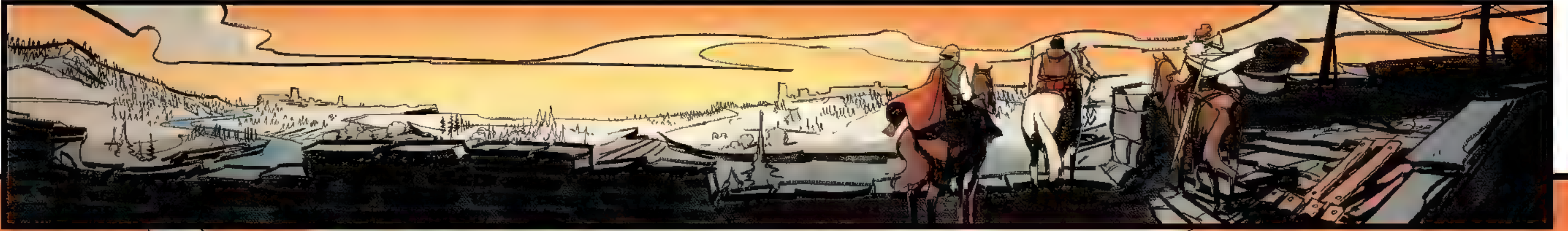
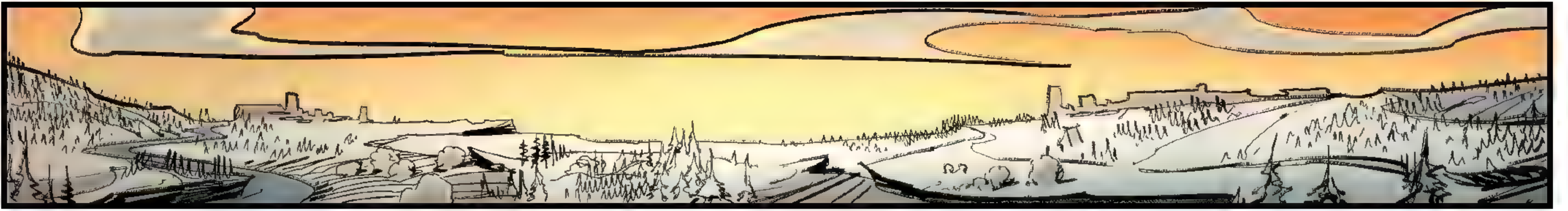
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.



THOSE TATTOOS...

THEY'RE PICTS.

SHE'S RIGHT. WE
KNOW WHERE TO GO.



WE'RE HERE.

HADRIAN'S WALL.

AND BEHIND IT, THE KINGDOM OF ALBA,
WHERE OUR PICT FRIENDS ARE FROM.



THEY COULD HAVE COME FROM
ANYWHERE, OR SETTLED IN
LUNDEN YEARS AGO.

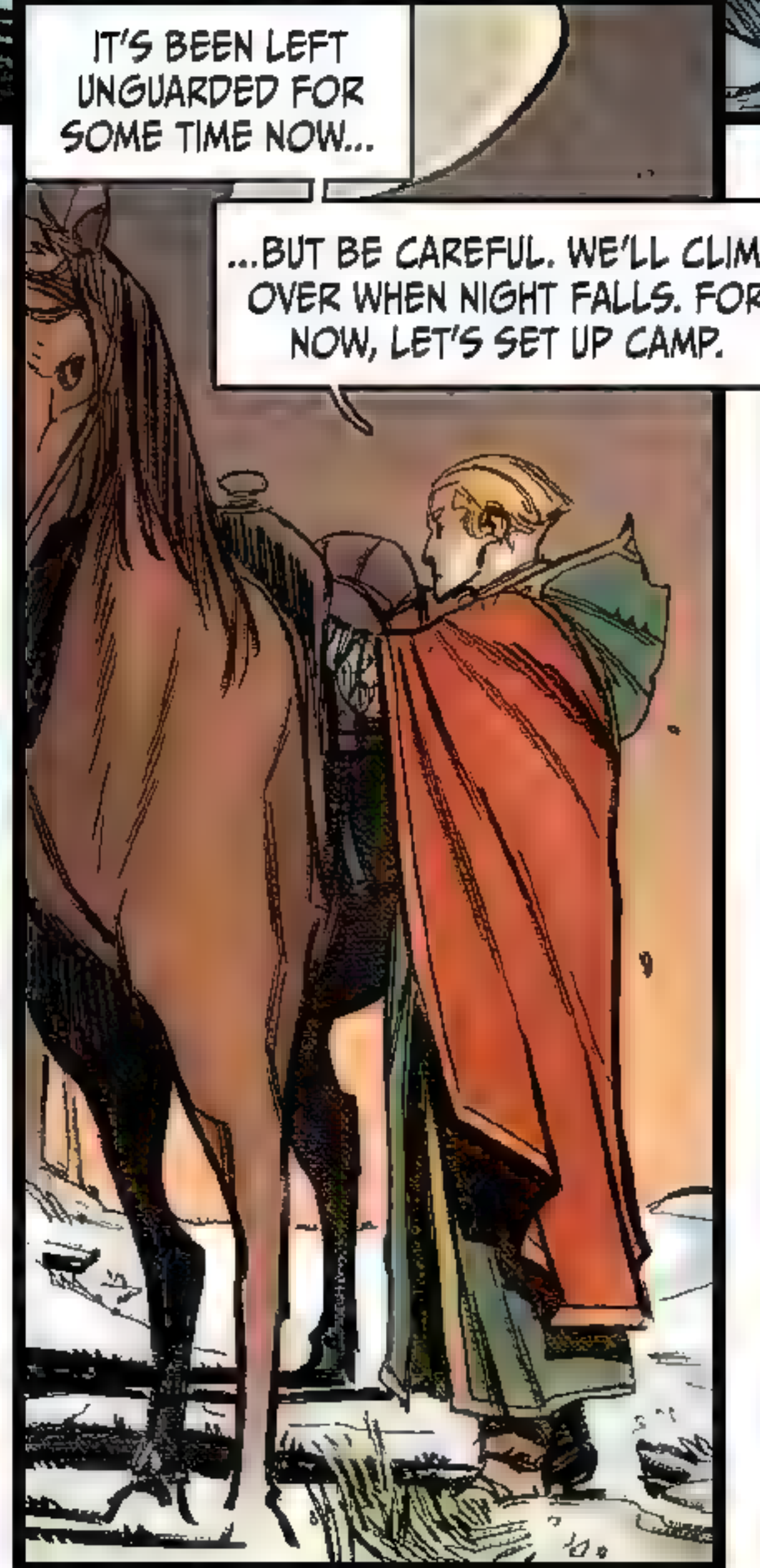
YOU THINK I DIDN'T QUESTION
MY CONTACTS IN TOWN?

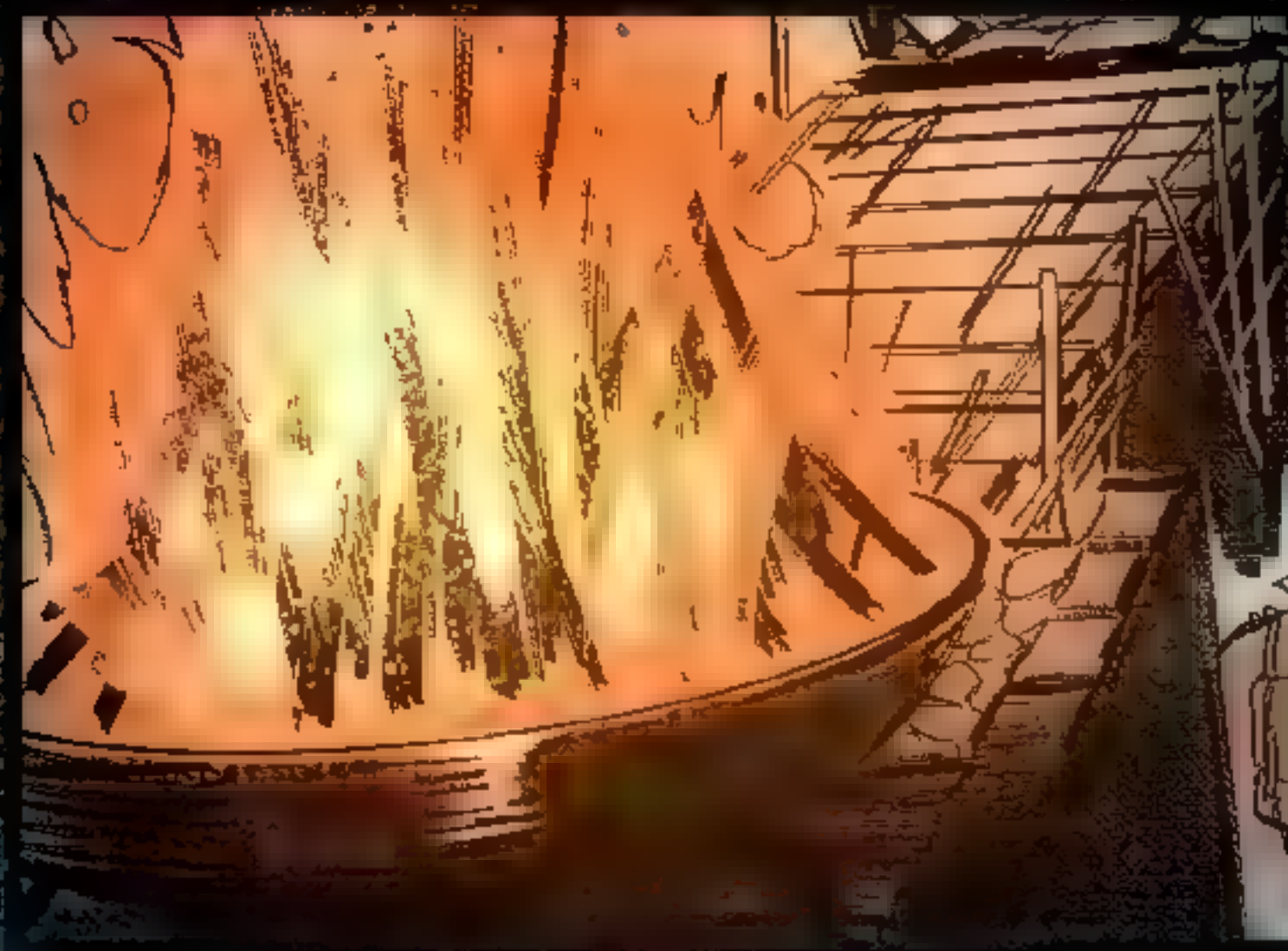
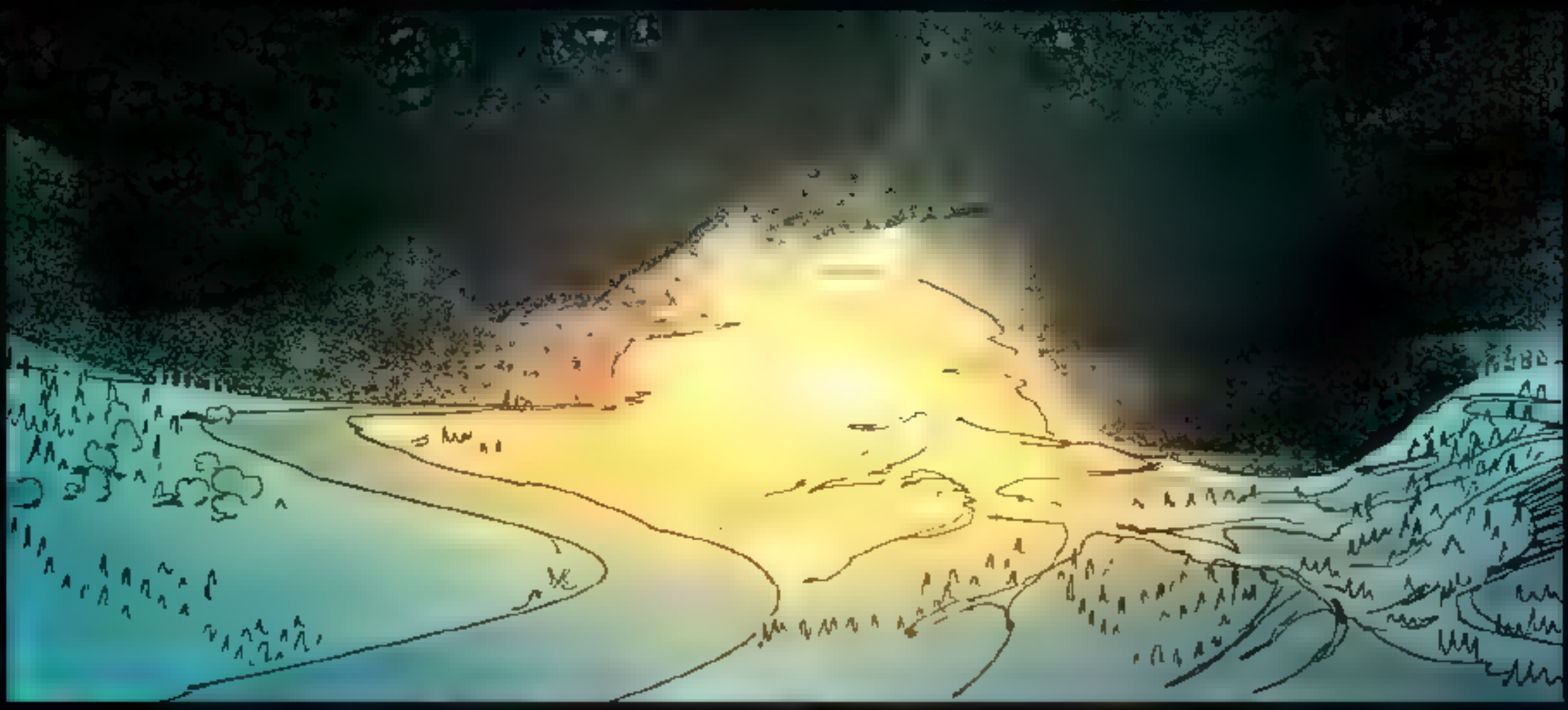
NOBODY HAD EVER SEEN
THOSE SWINDLERS. THEIR
ORDERS CAME FROM HERE.



IT'S BEEN LEFT
UNGUARDED FOR
SOME TIME NOW...

...BUT BE CAREFUL. WE'LL CLIMB
OVER WHEN NIGHT FALLS. FOR
NOW, LET'S SET UP CAMP.





IT DIDN'T TAKE US LONG TO FIND
OUR MONK FRIENDS.





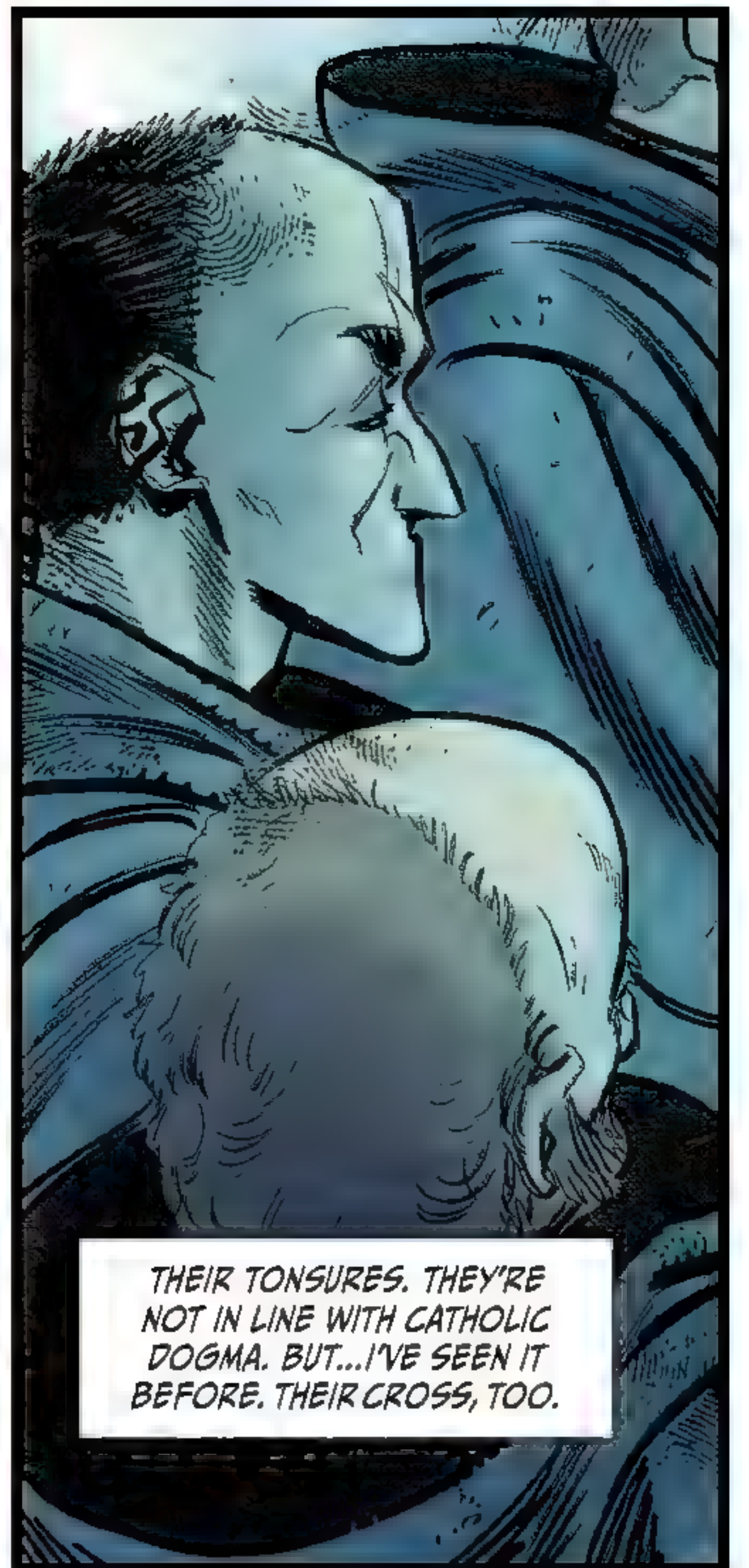
HERE, MONKS REALLY ARE MONKS. BUT THE SOLDIERS...



I SEE PICTS, SCOTS, AND...DANES.

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THOSE MONKS.

WHAT?



THEIR TONSURES. THEY'RE NOT IN LINE WITH CATHOLIC DOGMA. BUT...I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. THEIR CROSS, TOO.



WHERE?

IN A CODEX THAT MENTIONED THE OLD EVANGELISTS FROM IRELAND.

IT APPEARS THEY FOLLOW...

...CELTIC DOGMA.



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? ARE THEY CHRISTIANS OR NOT?

THEY ARE, BUT THEIR LEADERS WERE IN IRELAND, NOT ROME.

SAME GOD, DIFFERENT LEADERS. SO THEY WERE ENEMIES. THAT'S RELIGION FOR YOU.



IN TRUTH, IT TURNED OUT RATHER WELL--WITH A SYNOD THAT DECIDED WHO WAS IN CHARGE.

BUT THESE MONKS DON'T LOOK OPEN TO DISCUSSION.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?



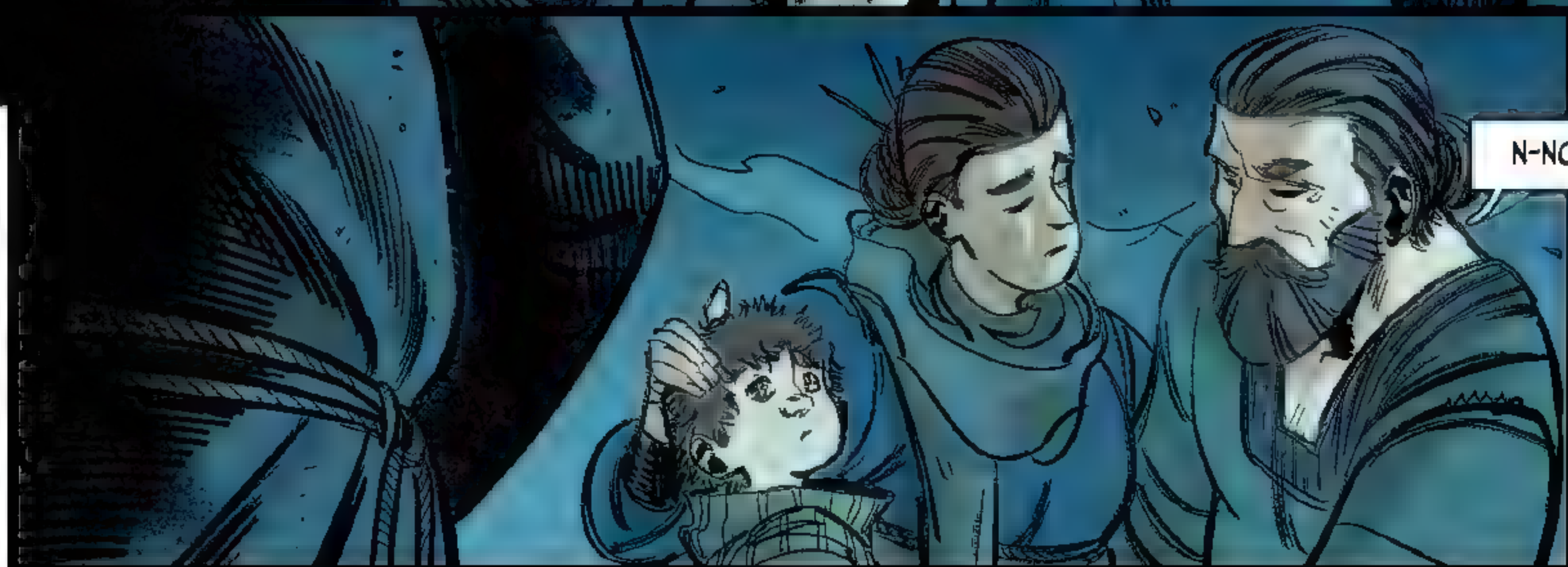
THEY'RE MAKING THEM READ A TEXT, LIKE WITH US AT THE ABBEY.

IT'S A TEST.

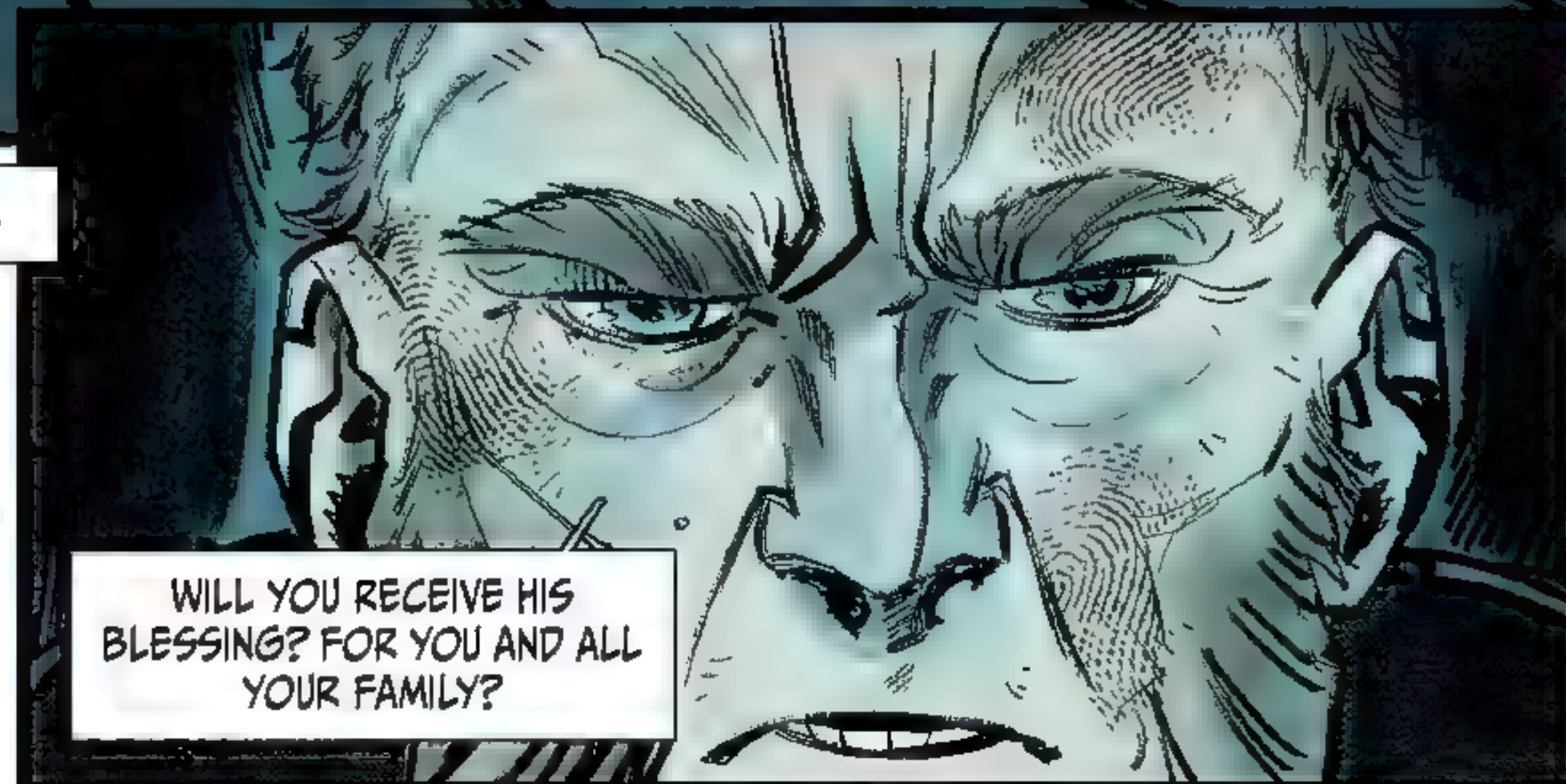


PEACE OF
THE REBORN.

CAN YOU READ THE WORD OF
OUR LORD?



N-NO...



WILL YOU RECEIVE HIS
BLESSING? FOR YOU AND ALL
YOUR FAMILY?



YES! OF
COURSE!



OW! IT HURTS!

SHUT UP!



NEXT!



PEACE OF
THE REBORN.

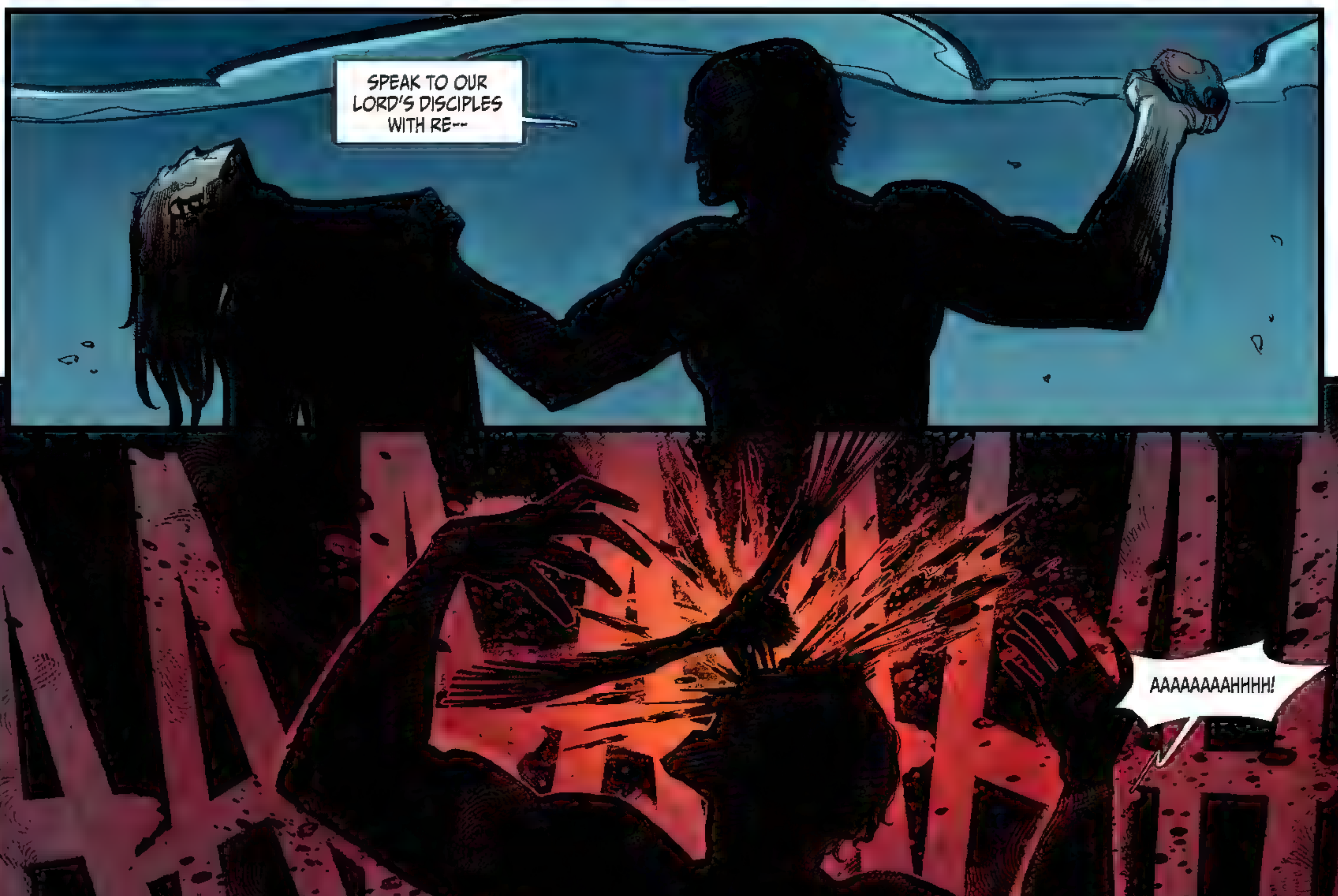
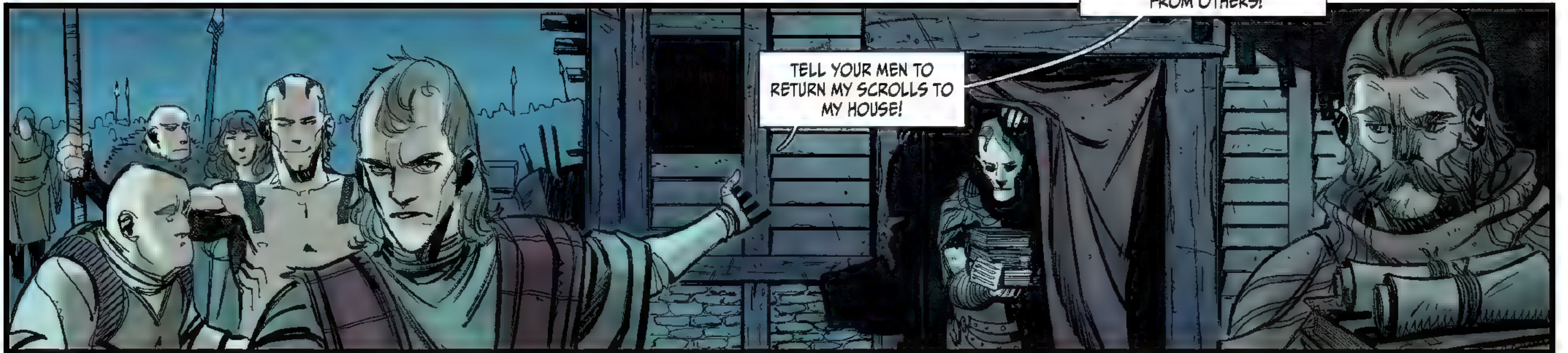
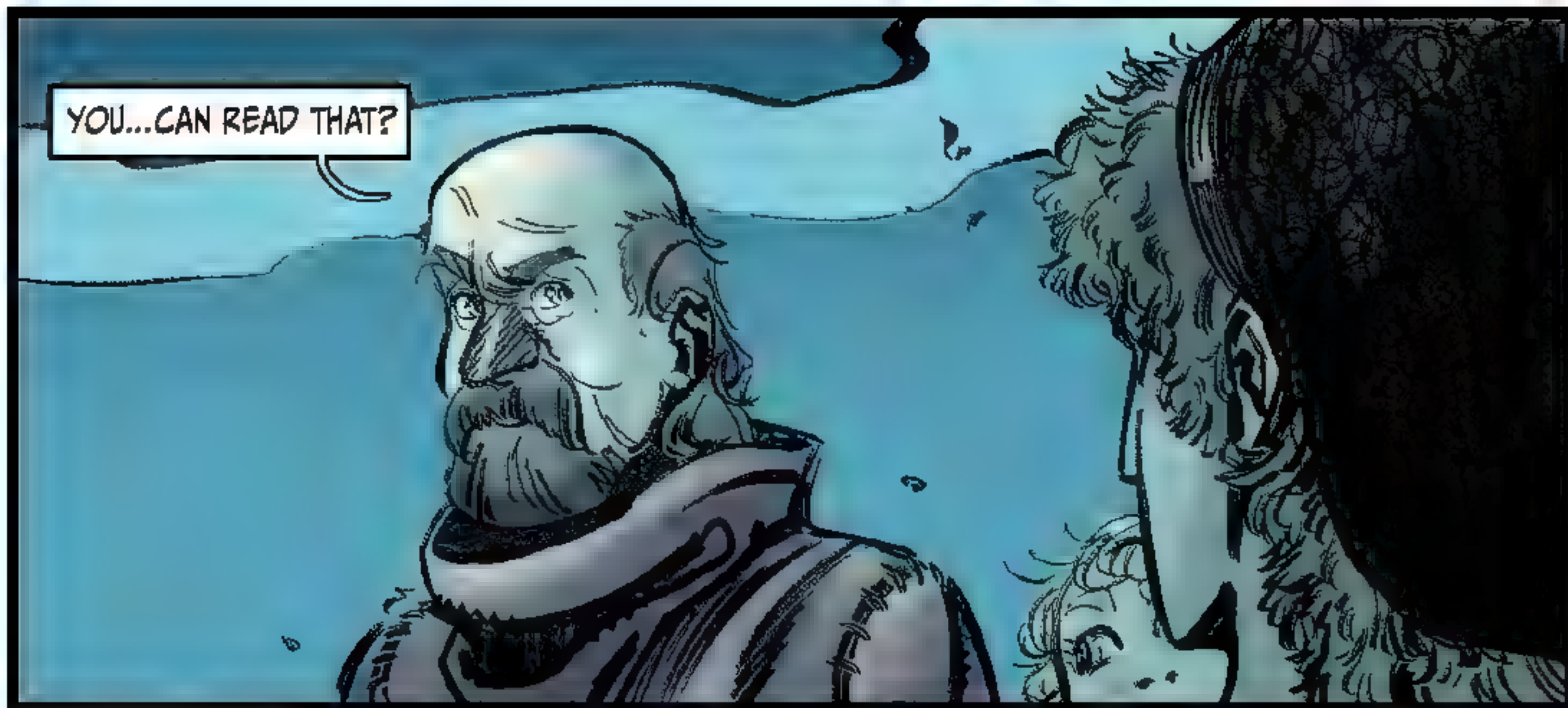
WE'VE ALREADY
BEEN CONVERTED.

THAT'S JUST A SCAR.
PROVE IT.

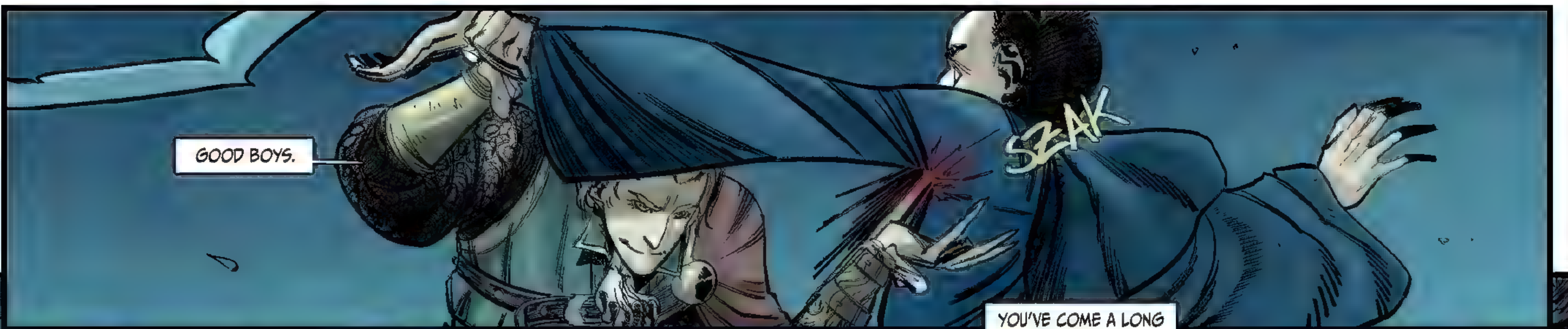
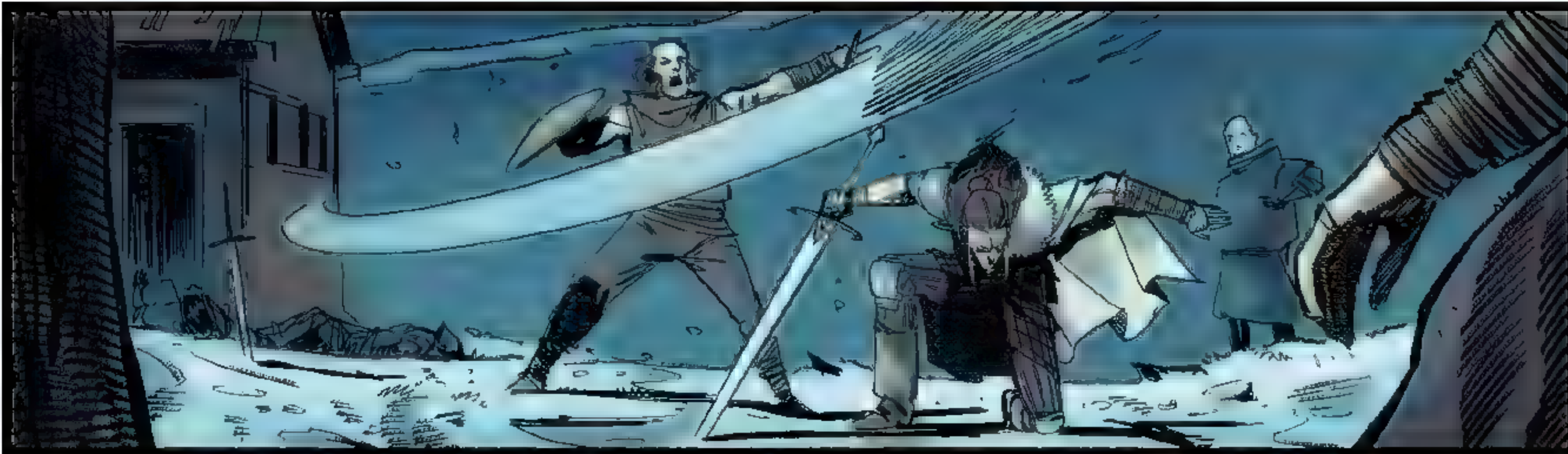
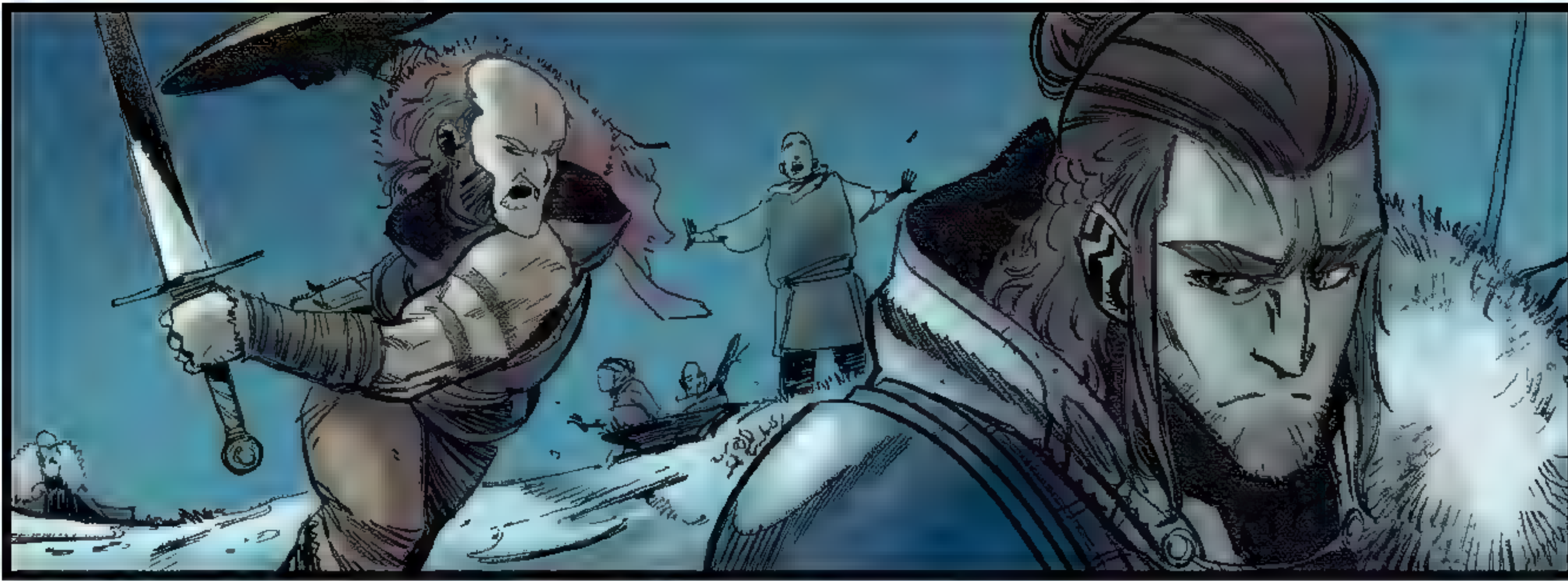


"THE LAW OF THE LORD IS
PERFECT, RESTORING THE
SOUL. THE TESTIMONY OF
THE LORD IS SURE."

VERY WELL.

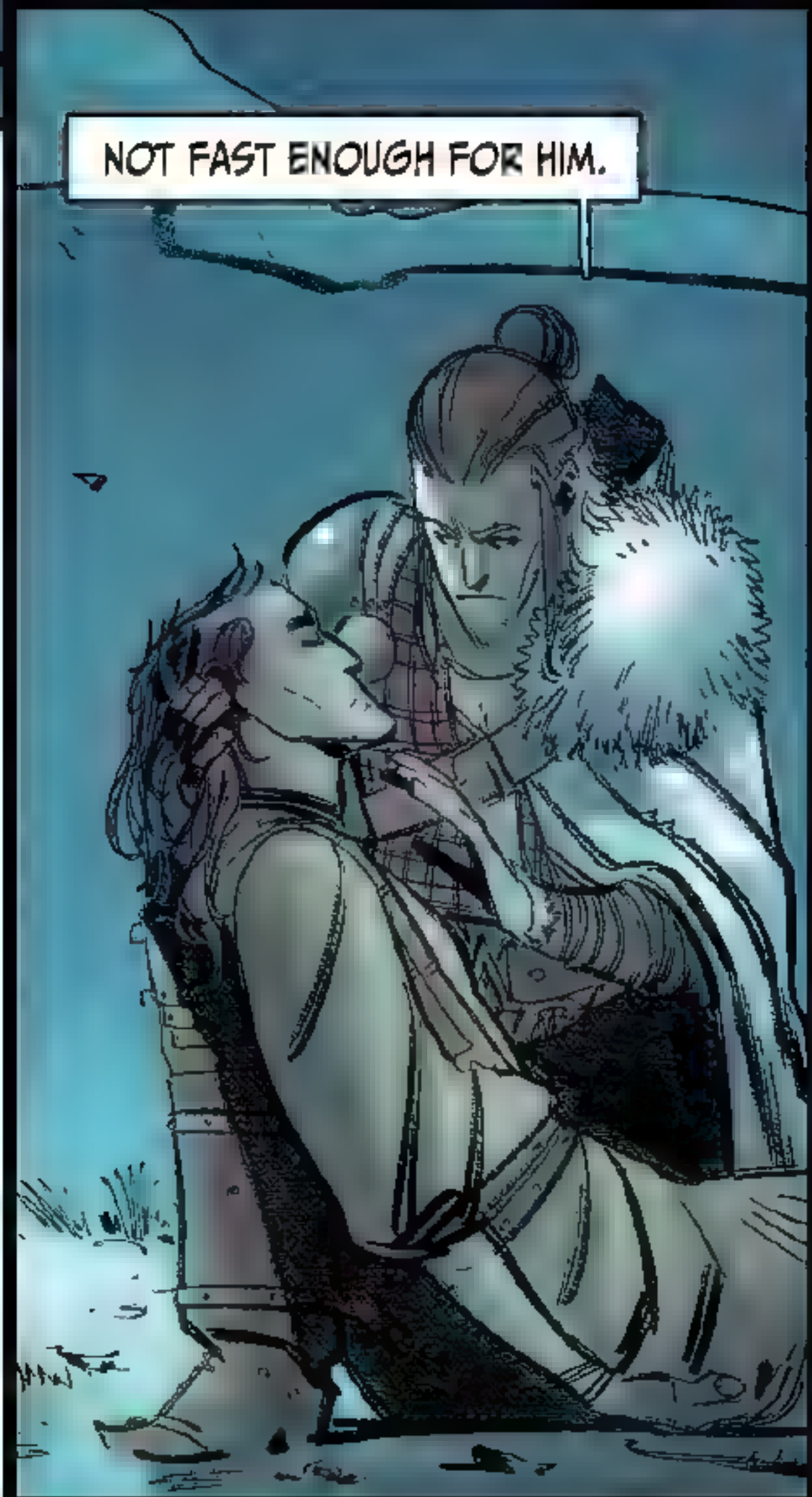






GOOD BOYS.

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, AND FAST.

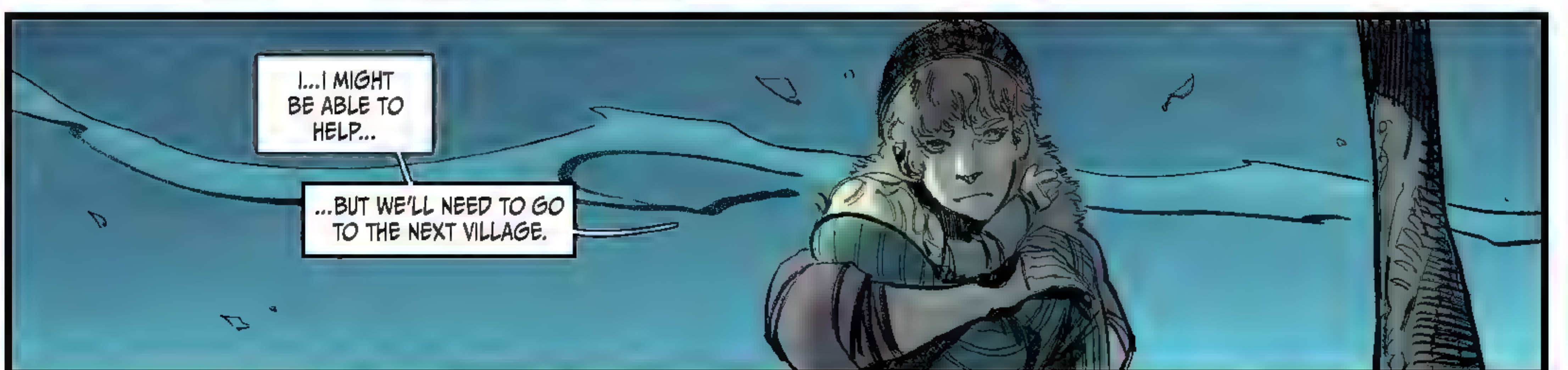


NOT FAST ENOUGH FOR HIM.



NOT FAST ENOUGH FOR ME, EITHER.

PITY HE'S DEAD. HE COULD'VE HEALED ME.



I...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP...

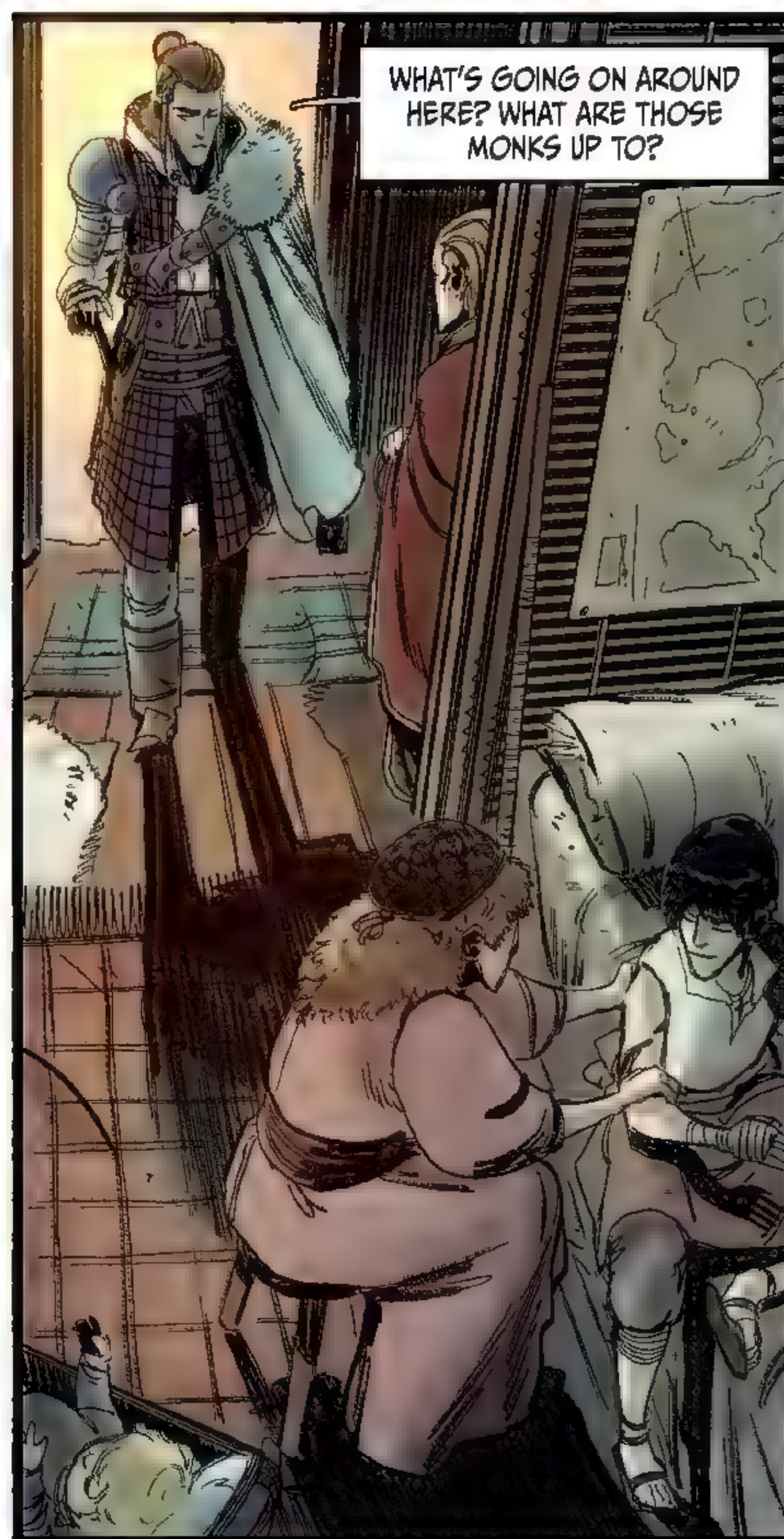
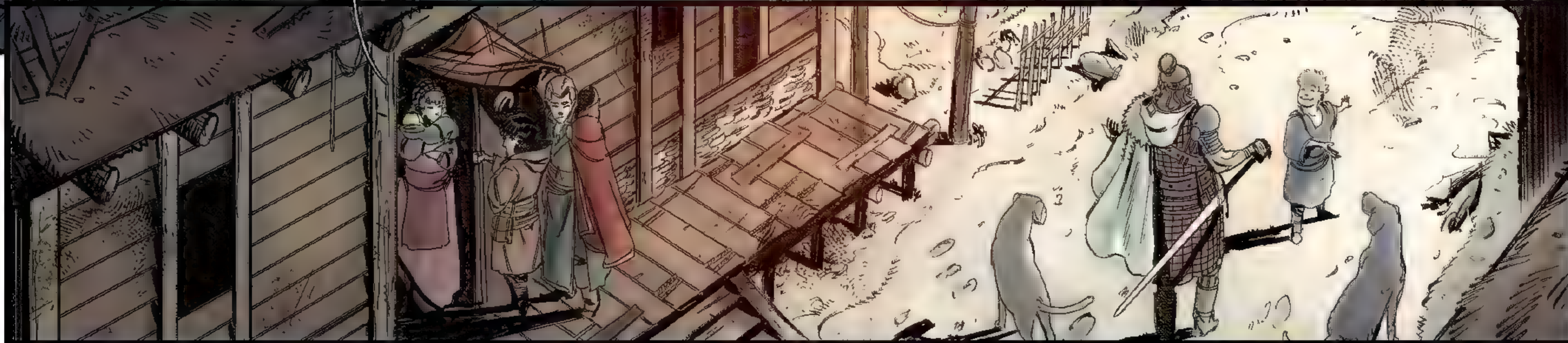
...BUT WE'LL NEED TO GO TO THE NEXT VILLAGE.



IN HERE.

MOTHER!

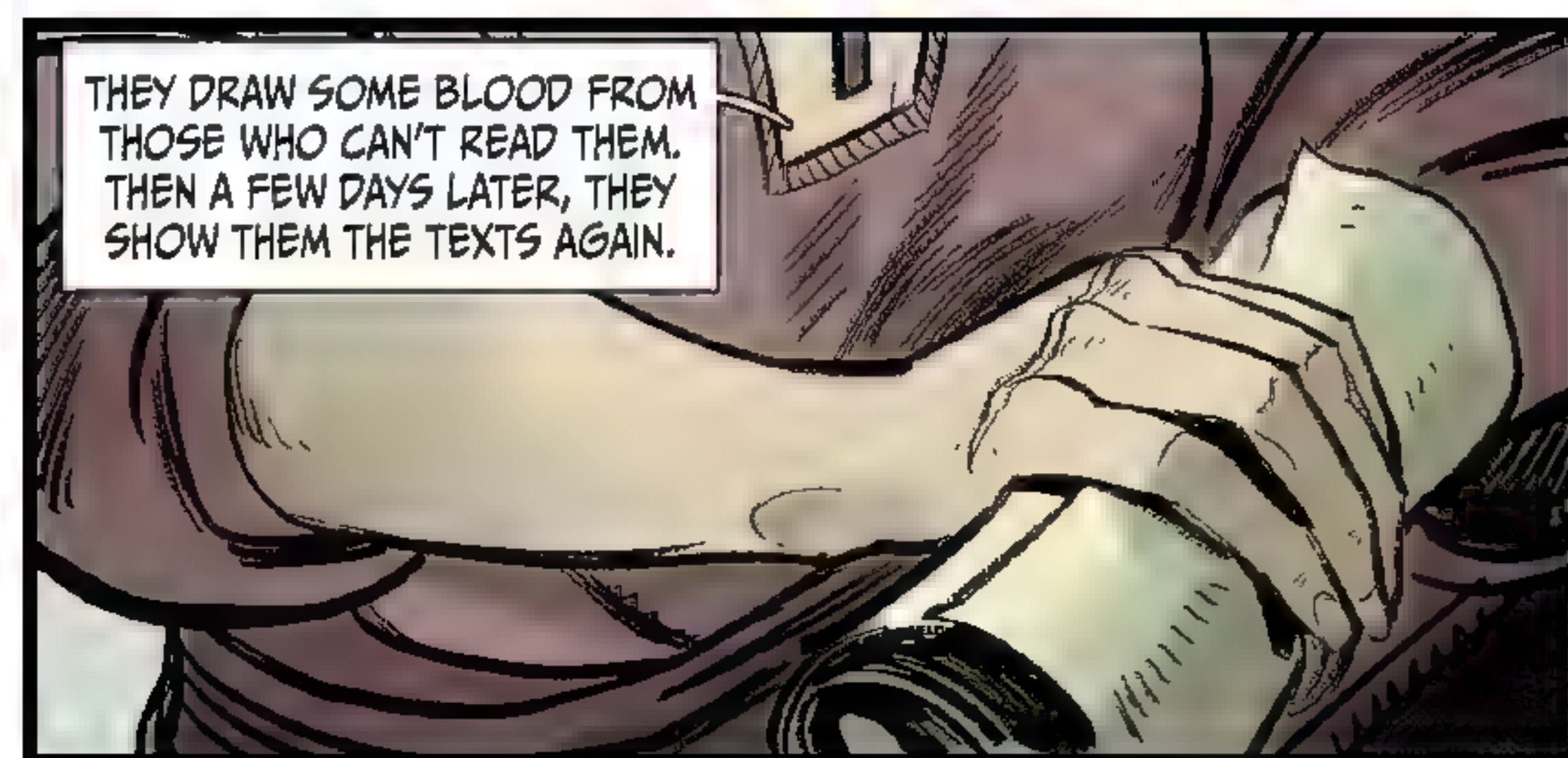
WOOF
WOOF



WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND
HERE? WHAT ARE THOSE
MONKS UP TO?



CONVERTING PEOPLE. THEY'VE
BEEN DOING IT THROUGHOUT THE
KINGDOM FOR MONTHS. THEY SHOW
THEM THESE STRANGE TEXTS.

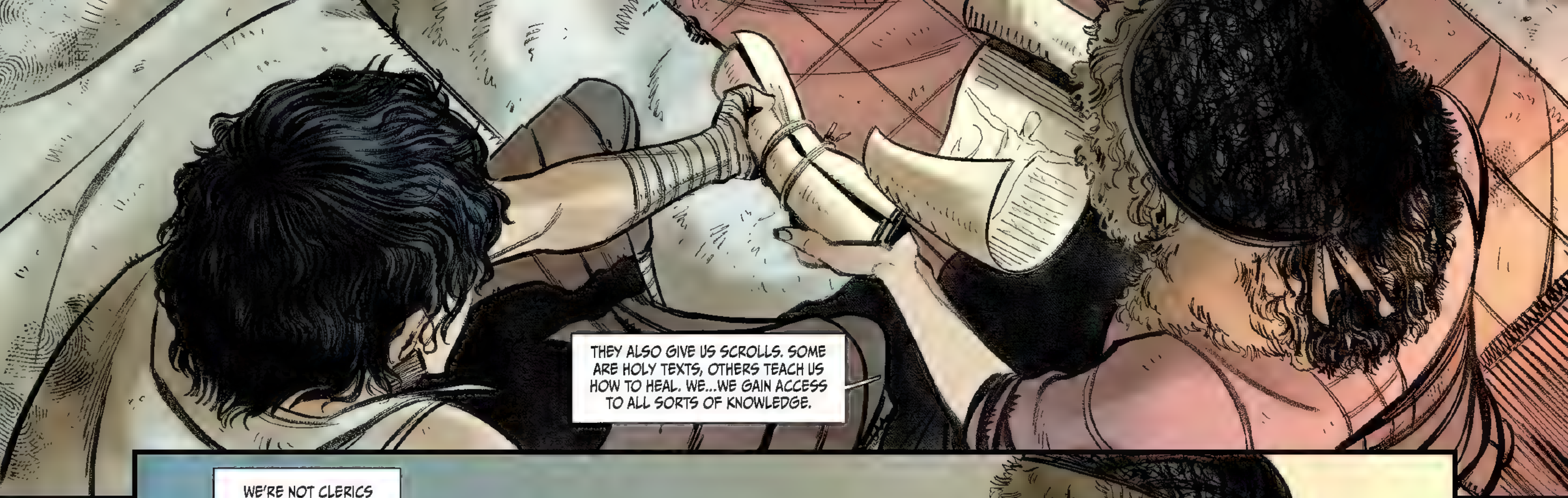


THEY DRAW SOME BLOOD FROM
THOSE WHO CAN'T READ THEM.
THEN A FEW DAYS LATER, THEY
SHOW THEM THE TEXTS AGAIN.

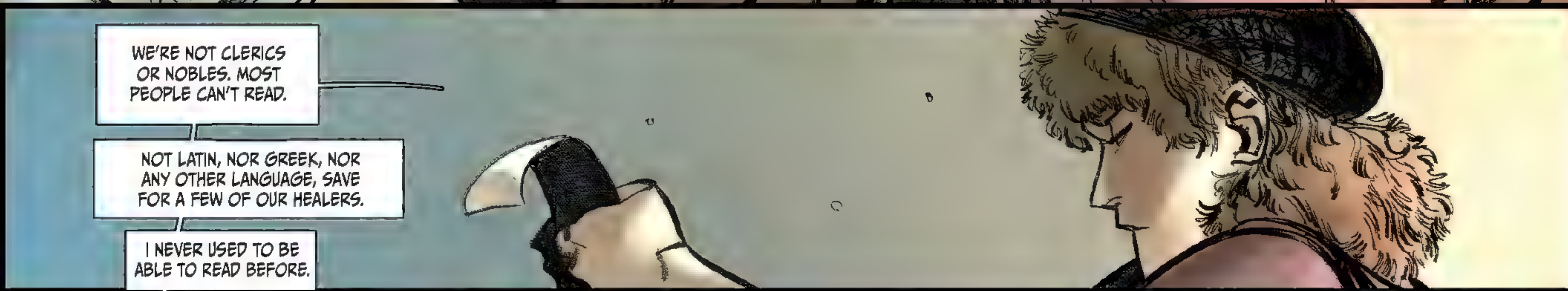


AND MIRACULOUSLY,
YOU CAN READ THEM.

YES...BUT THAT'S
NOT ALL.



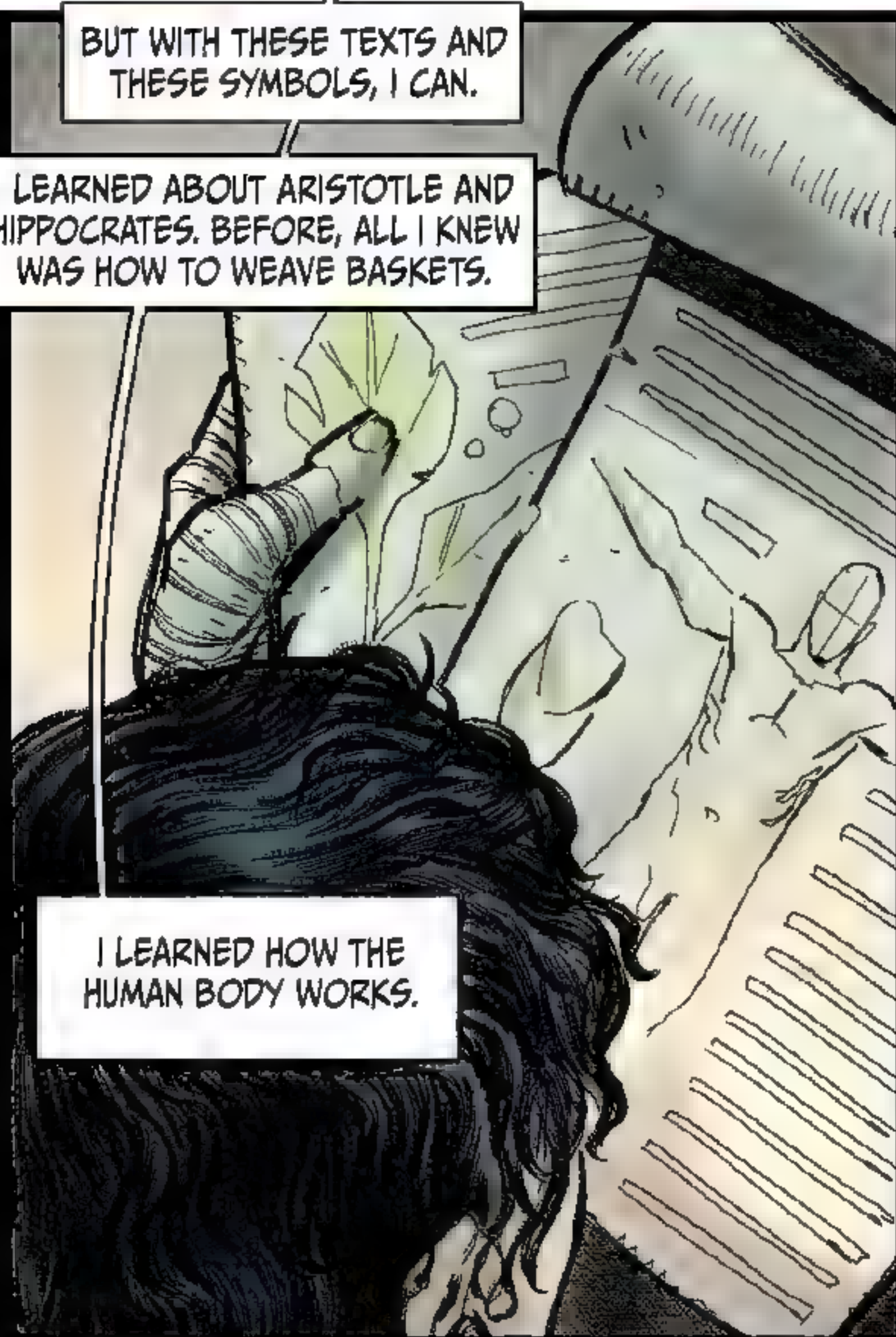
THEY ALSO GIVE US SCROLLS. SOME ARE HOLY TEXTS, OTHERS TEACH US HOW TO HEAL. WE...WE GAIN ACCESS TO ALL SORTS OF KNOWLEDGE.



WE'RE NOT CLERICS OR NOBLES. MOST PEOPLE CAN'T READ.

NOT LATIN, NOR GREEK, NOR ANY OTHER LANGUAGE, SAVE FOR A FEW OF OUR HEALERS.

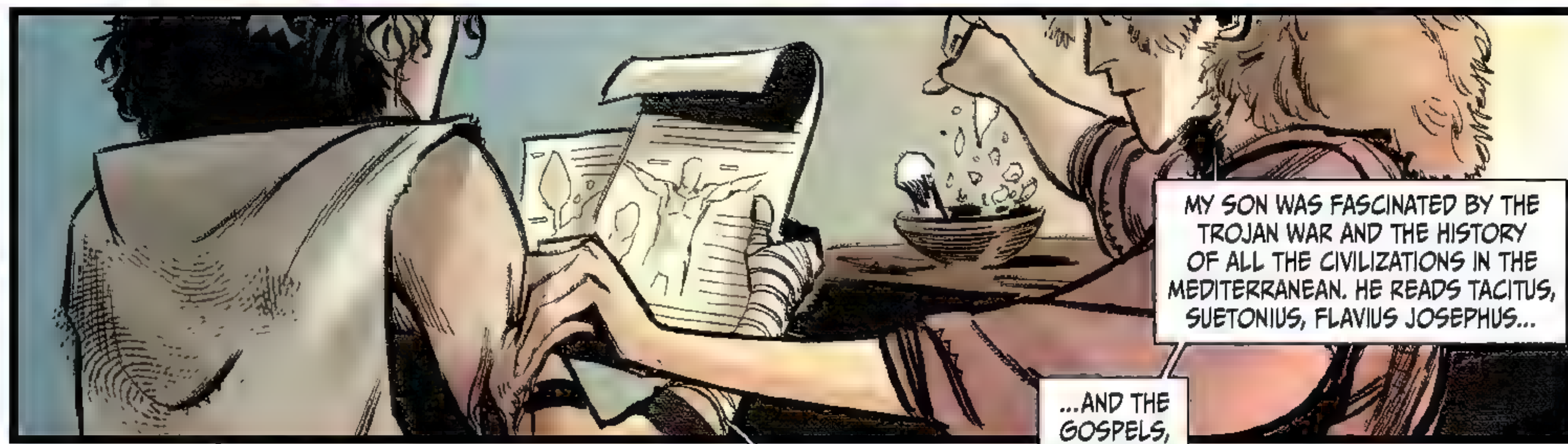
I NEVER USED TO BE ABLE TO READ BEFORE.



BUT WITH THESE TEXTS AND THESE SYMBOLS, I CAN.

I LEARNED ABOUT ARISTOTLE AND HIPPOCRATES. BEFORE, ALL I KNEW WAS HOW TO WEAVE BASKETS.

I LEARNED HOW THE HUMAN BODY WORKS.



MY SON WAS FASCINATED BY THE TROJAN WAR AND THE HISTORY OF ALL THE CIVILIZATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. HE READS TACITUS, SUETONIUS, FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS...

...AND THE GOSPELS, OF COURSE.



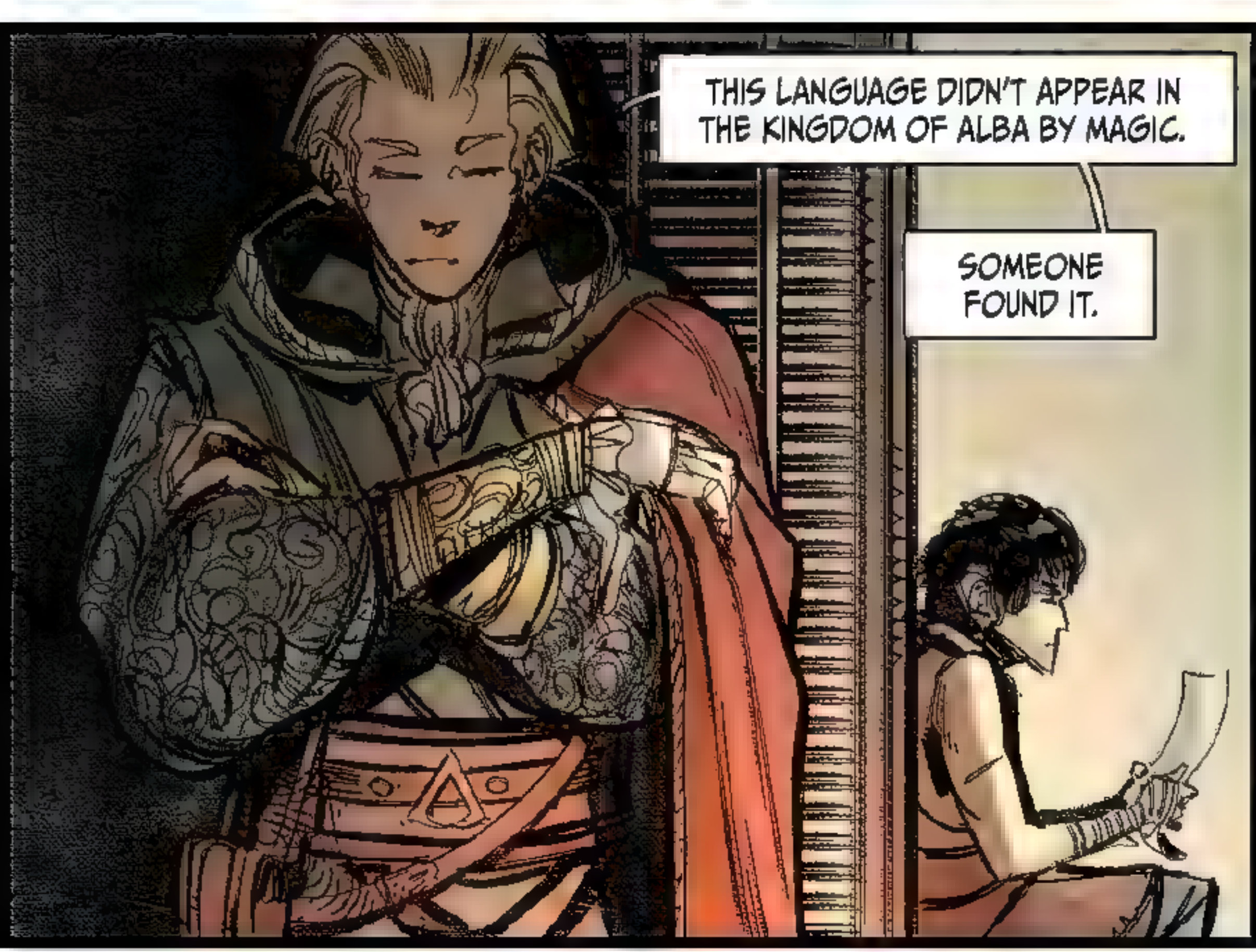
EVEN IF YOU CAN READ, IT TAKES TIME TO ASSIMILATE THAT KNOWLEDGE.

NOT WITH THIS LANGUAGE AND THESE SYMBOLS.



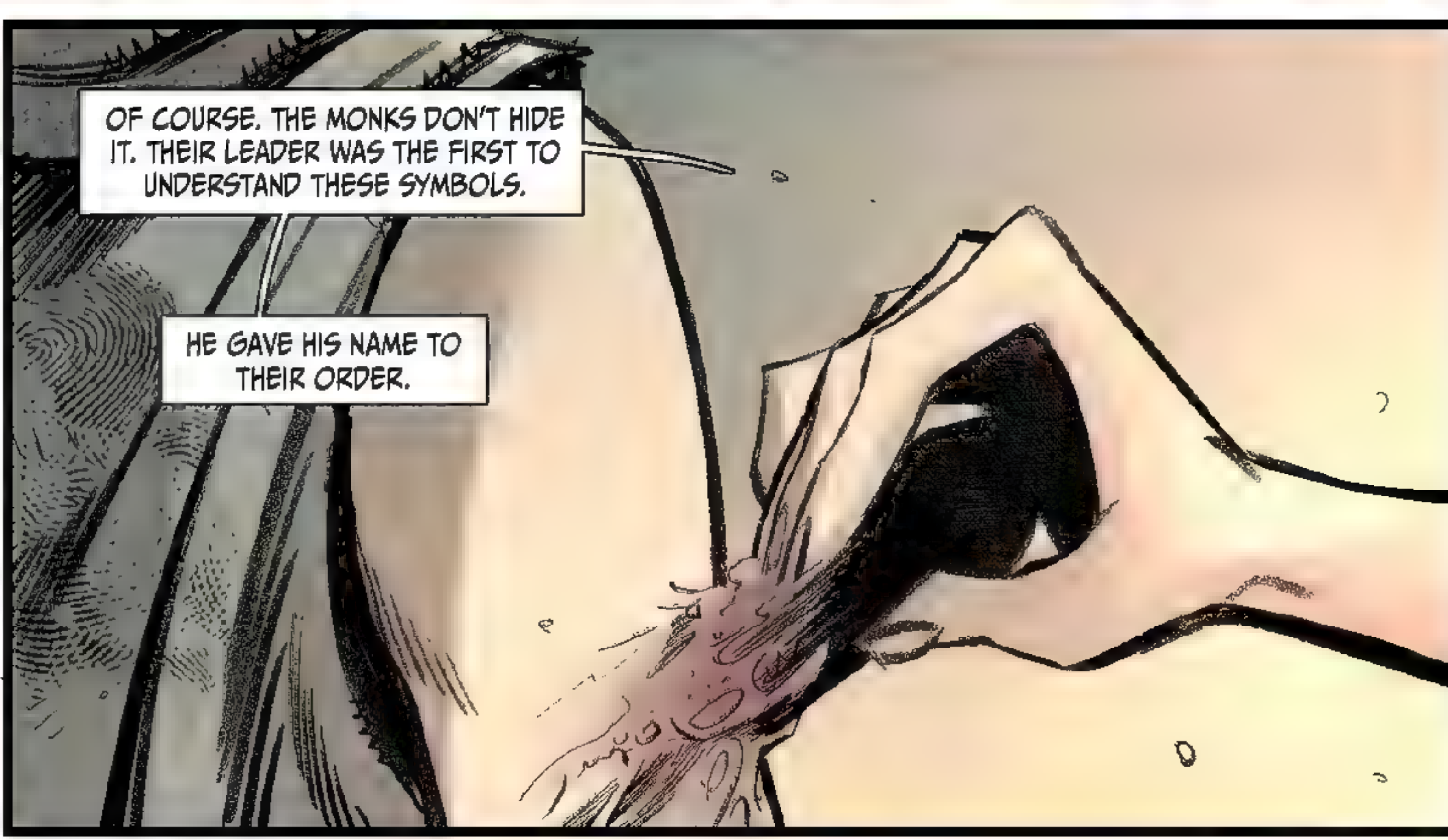
TOK TOK
TOK

IT'S AS THOUGH THE WORDS SPEAK DIRECTLY TO OUR SOULS.



THIS LANGUAGE DIDN'T APPEAR IN THE KINGDOM OF ALBA BY MAGIC.

SOMEONE FOUND IT.



OF COURSE. THE MONKS DON'T HIDE IT. THEIR LEADER WAS THE FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THESE SYMBOLS.

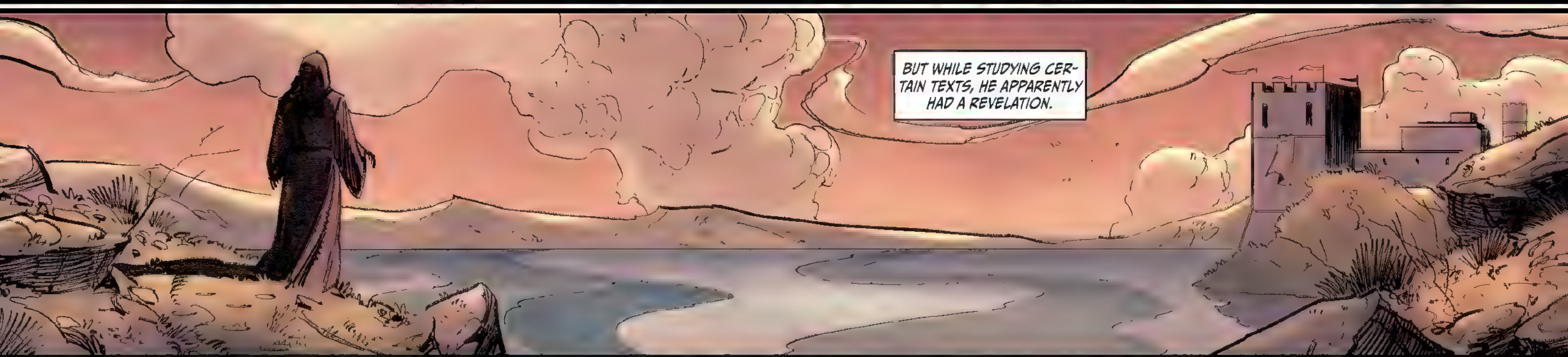
HE GAVE HIS NAME TO THEIR ORDER.



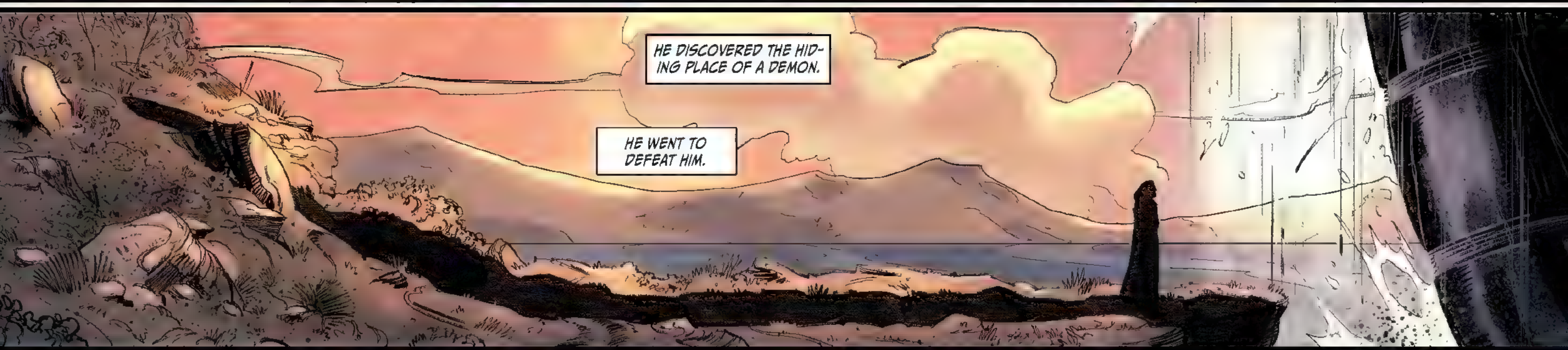
SAINT COLUMBA
THE REBORN.

HE TOOK THE NAME OF AN
OLD EVANGELIST, A SAINT.

HE WAS JUST AN
ORDINARY SCRIBE, LIKE
MANY OTHERS.

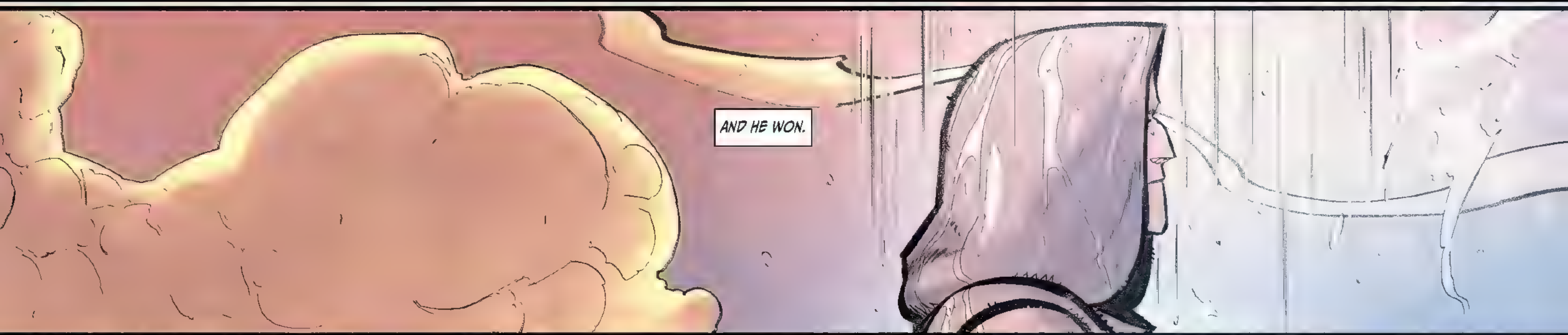


BUT WHILE STUDYING CER-
TAIN TEXTS, HE APPARENTLY
HAD A REVELATION.



HE DISCOVERED THE HID-
ING PLACE OF A DEMON.

HE WENT TO
DEFEAT HIM.



AND HE WON.



AND GOD
REWARDED HIM.



HE CLAIMS THAT GOD GAVE
HIM THE GIFT OF HIS WORD--
A LANGUAGE THAT ALL TRUE
BELIEVERS CAN READ.



AND WHERE DID THIS ALLEGED BATTLE TAKE PLACE?

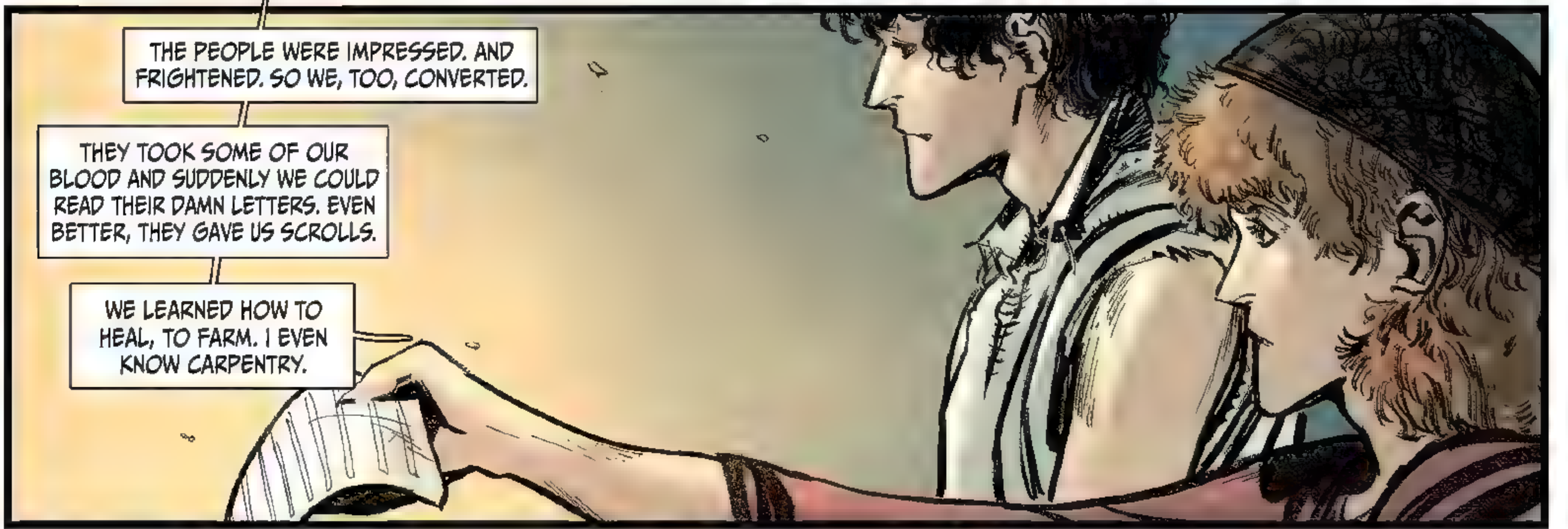
AT LOCH NESS.



FIRST WE HEARD THAT THE ABBEYS OF THE KINGDOM WERE BEING CONVERTED, AND THAT THE MONKS WERE ALL GOING TO VERIFY THE EXISTENCE OF A MIRACLE. THEN THE LEADERS AND NOBLES CONVERTED.

THEN THEY CAME TO THE VILLAGES TO SHOW US...

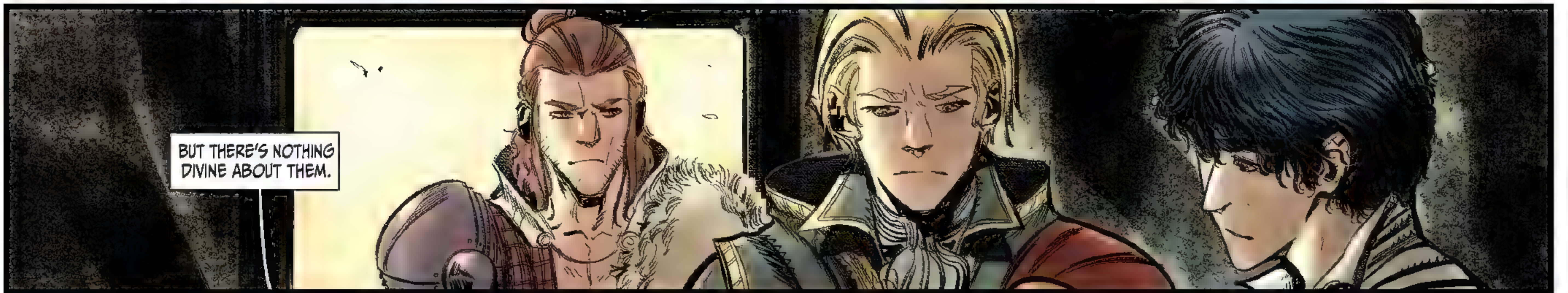
...THEIR DIVINE WORD.



THE PEOPLE WERE IMPRESSED, AND FRIGHTENED. SO WE, TOO, CONVERTED.

THEY TOOK SOME OF OUR BLOOD AND SUDDENLY WE COULD READ THEIR DAMN LETTERS. EVEN BETTER, THEY GAVE US SCROLLS.

WE LEARNED HOW TO HEAL, TO FARM. I EVEN KNOW CARPENTRY.

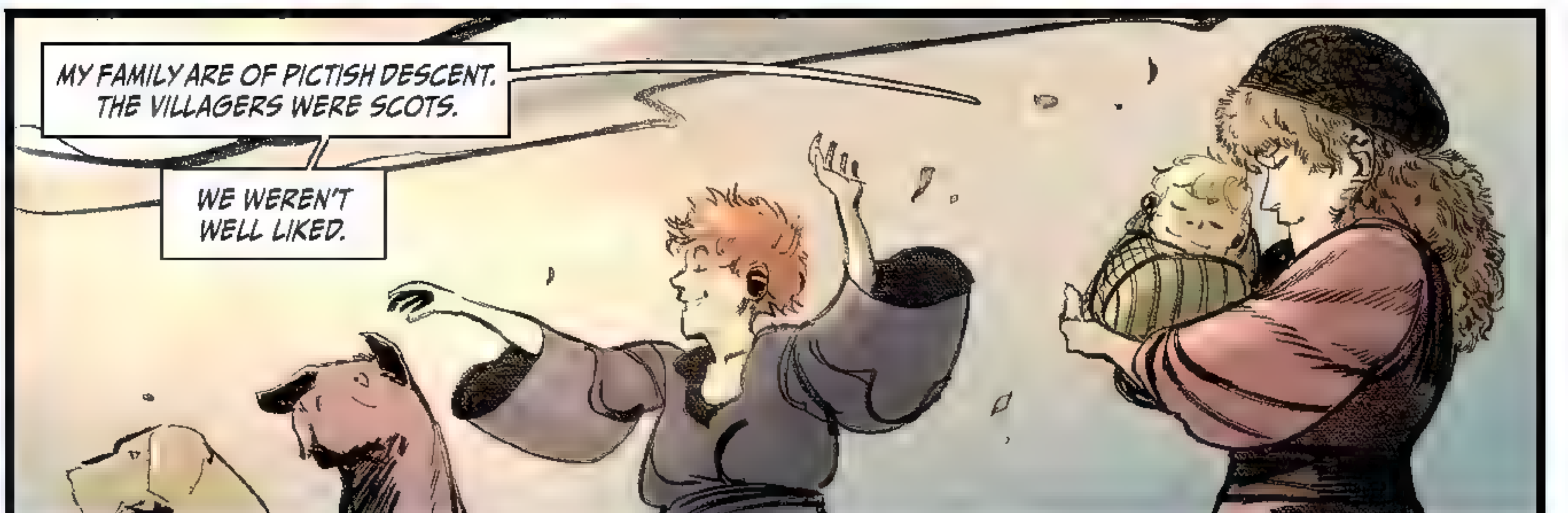


BUT THERE'S NOTHING DIVINE ABOUT THEM.



YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY THE VILLAGE IS EMPTY.

YES.

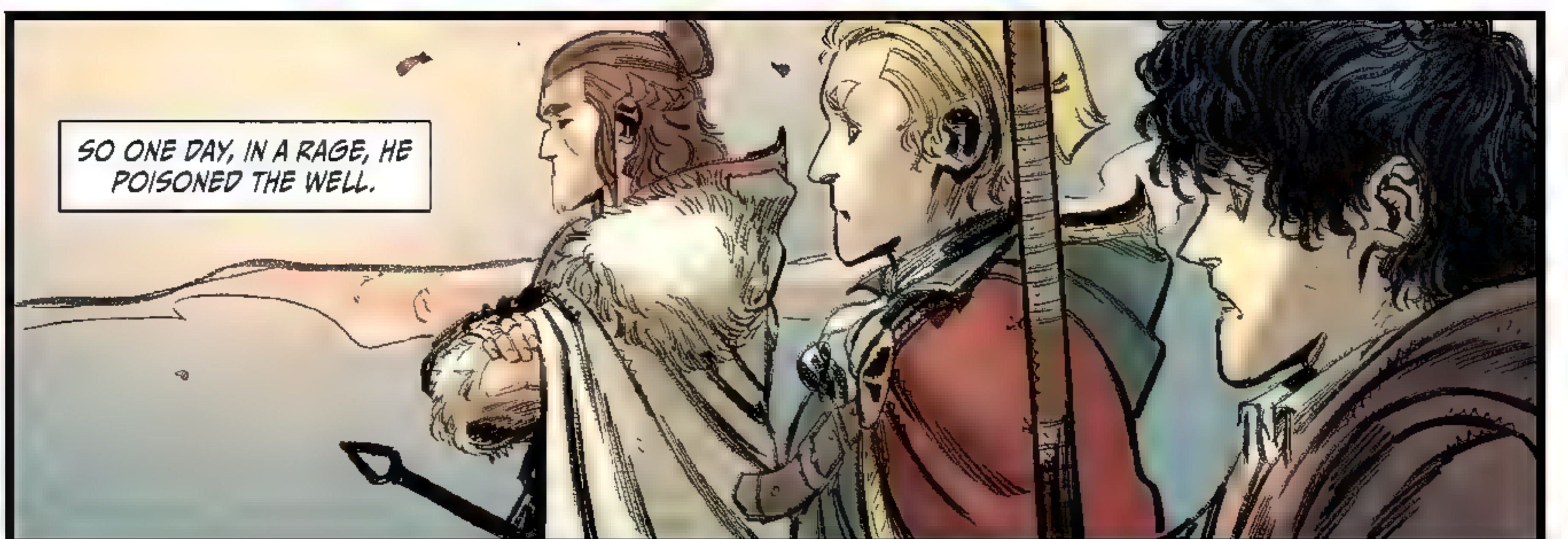


MY FAMILY ARE OF PICTISH DESCENT. THE VILLAGERS WERE SCOTS.

WE WEREN'T WELL LIKED.



IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR MY SON TO BEAR. HE COULD READ THE TEXTS AND HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH HERBS.



SO ONE DAY, IN A RAGE, HE POISONED THE WELL.



KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ALWAYS A BLESSING.



THAT'S WHAT I WAS SAYING. EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED WAS THROUGH WATCHING NATURE, AND THAT'S BEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH.

OH YEAH? THE TREES TOLD YOU HOW TO MAKE POULTICES? A SQUIRREL TAUGHT YOU TO TEMPER STEEL AND CUT STONE?

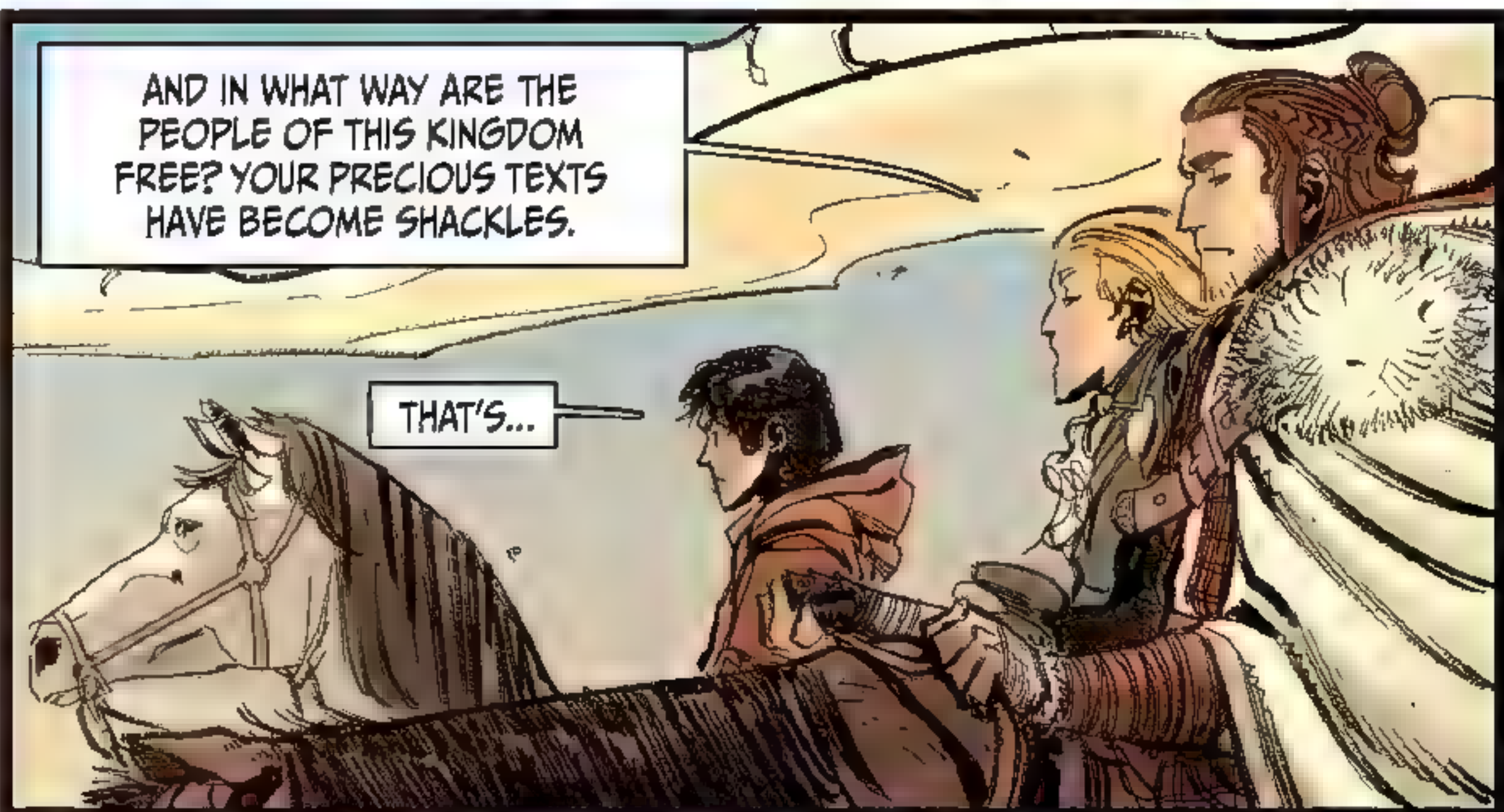


I LEARNED THAT FROM WATCHING MEN.

IF THEY'RE ALIVE, THEN YES. BOOKS OUTLIVE MAN. THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT.

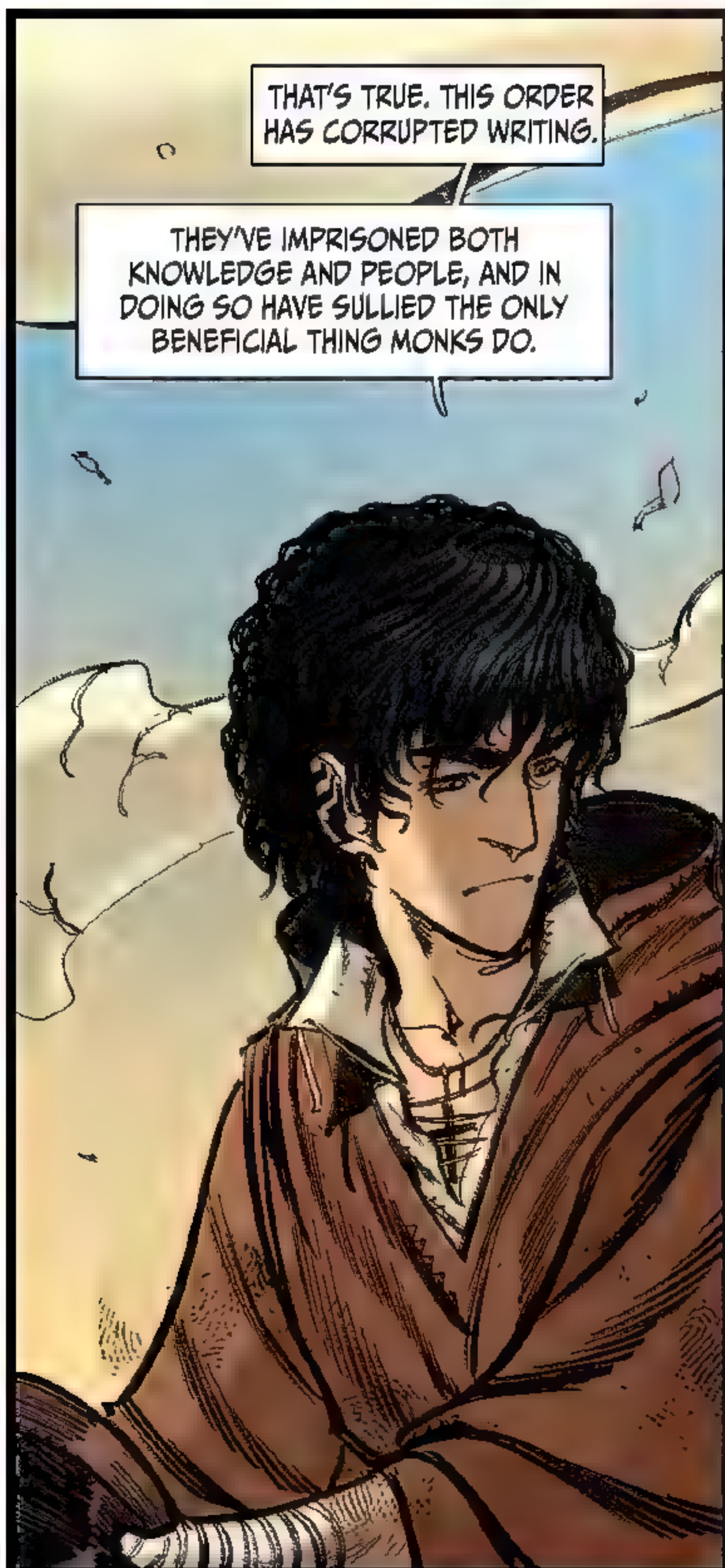


BOOKS MAKE KNOWLEDGE IMMORTAL. THEY FREE US FROM DEATH, TIME, AND SPACE. BOOKS LIBERATE US.



AND IN WHAT WAY ARE THE PEOPLE OF THIS KINGDOM FREE? YOUR PRECIOUS TEXTS HAVE BECOME SHACKLES.

THAT'S...



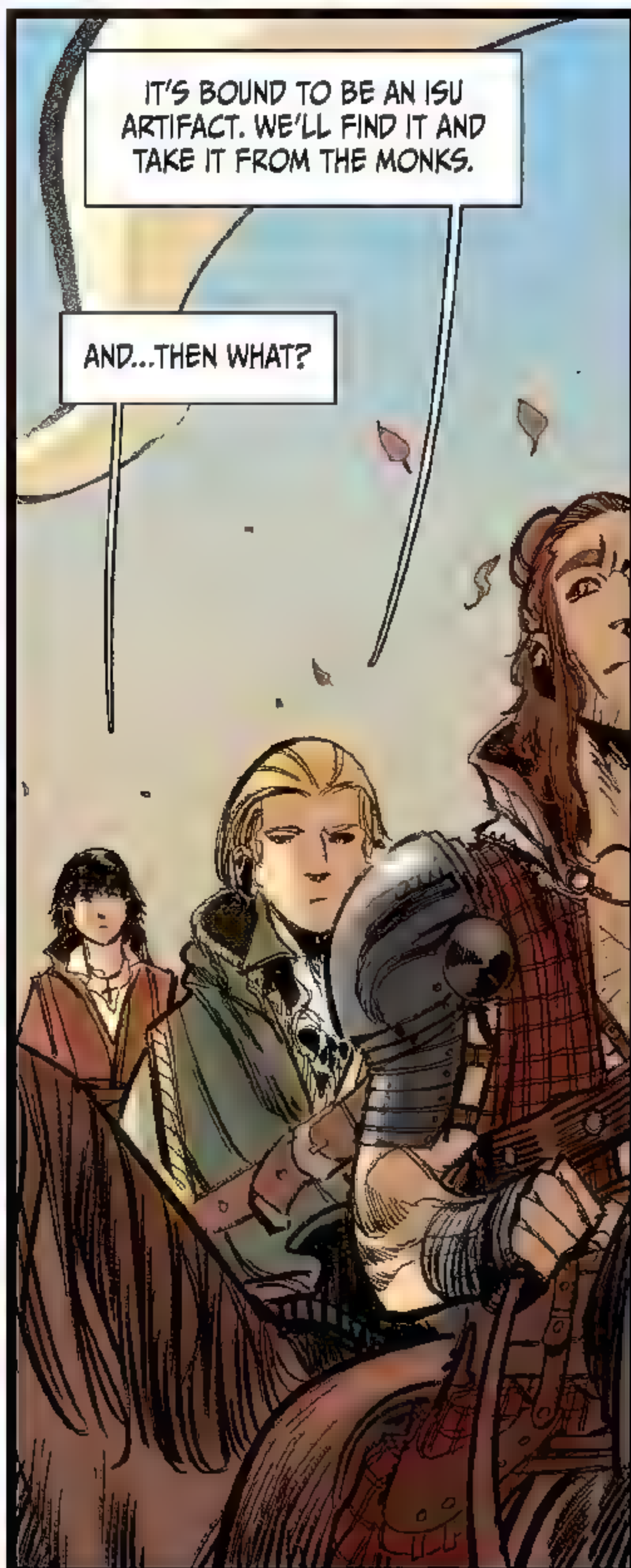
THAT'S TRUE. THIS ORDER HAS CORRUPTED WRITING.

THEY'VE IMPRISONED BOTH KNOWLEDGE AND PEOPLE, AND IN DOING SO HAVE SULLIED THE ONLY BENEFICIAL THING MONKS DO.



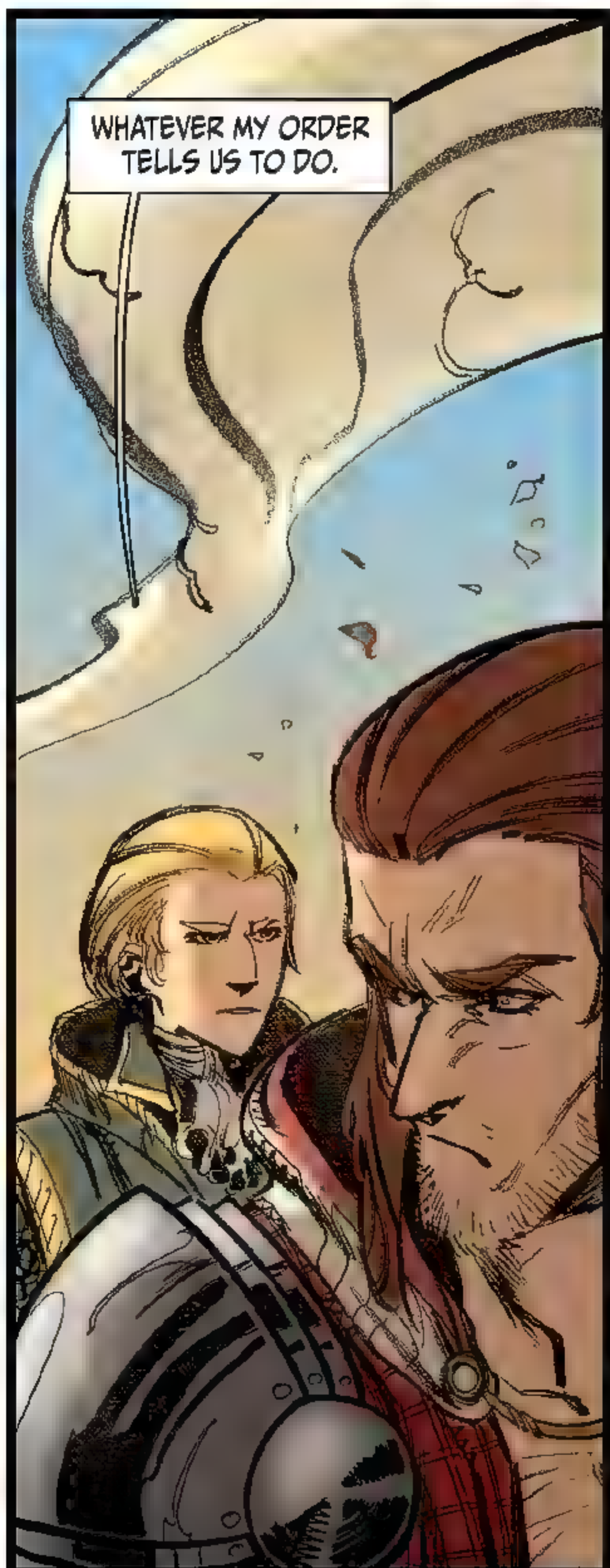
I'M SORRY. WE'LL FIND A WAY TO STOP IT, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW.

IT'S PROBABLY NOT THAT COMPLICATED.

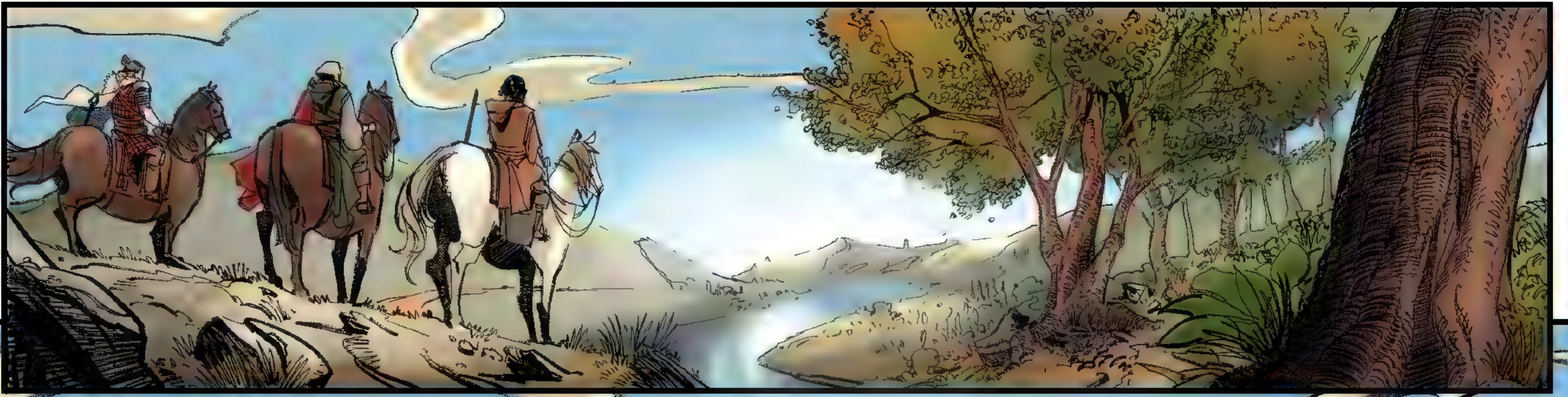


IT'S BOUND TO BE AN ISU ARTIFACT. WE'LL FIND IT AND TAKE IT FROM THE MONKS.

AND...THEN WHAT?



WHATEVER MY ORDER TELLS US TO DO.



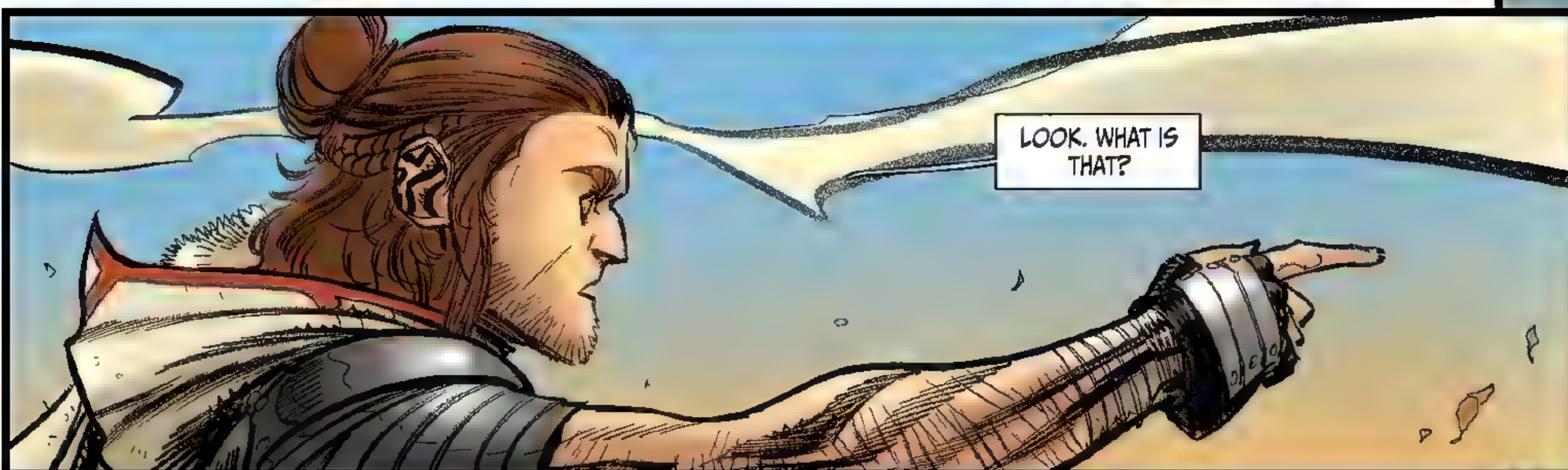
WE'RE HERE.

LOCH NESS.

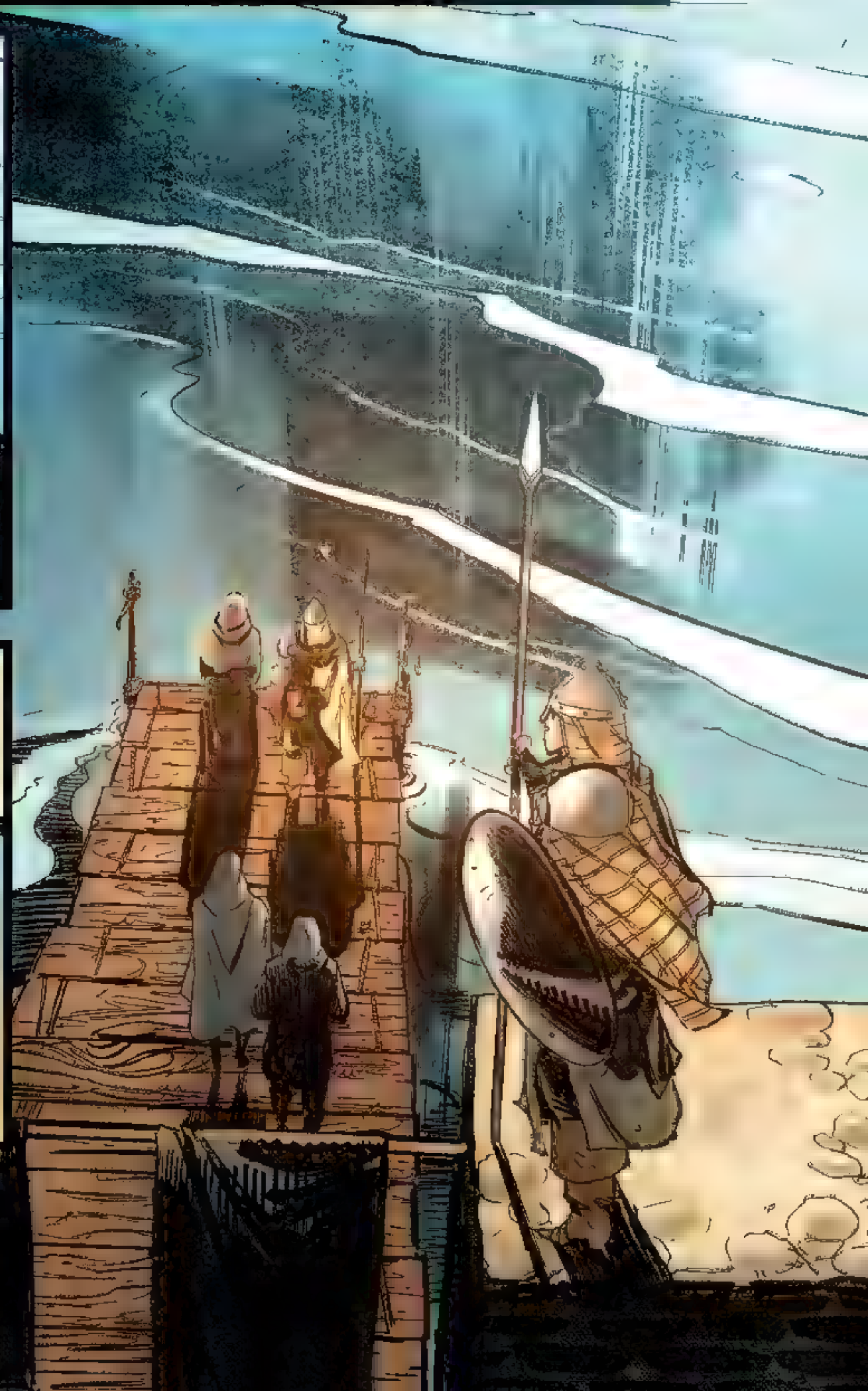
THEY'VE BUILT A VERI-
TABLE FORTRESS THERE.

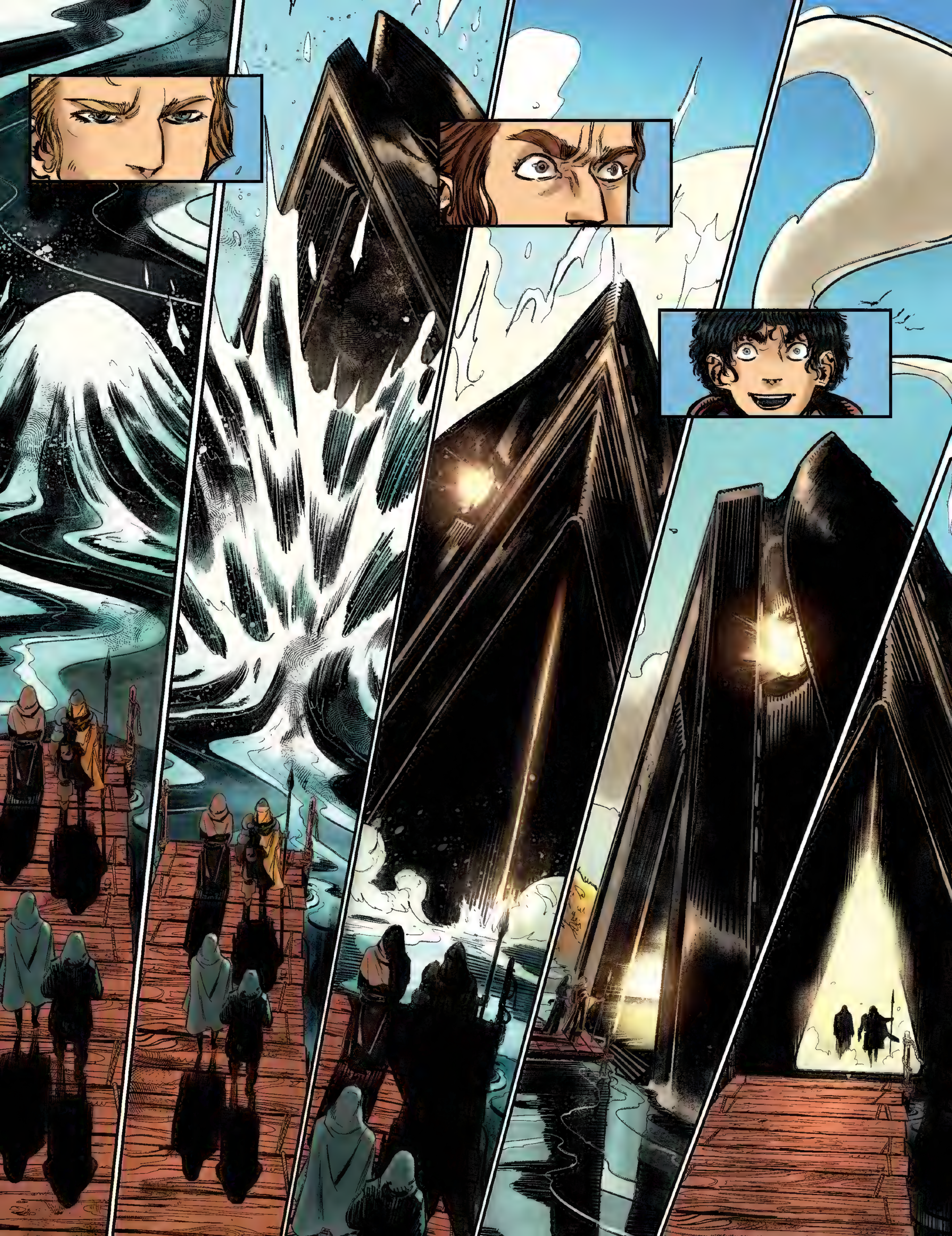


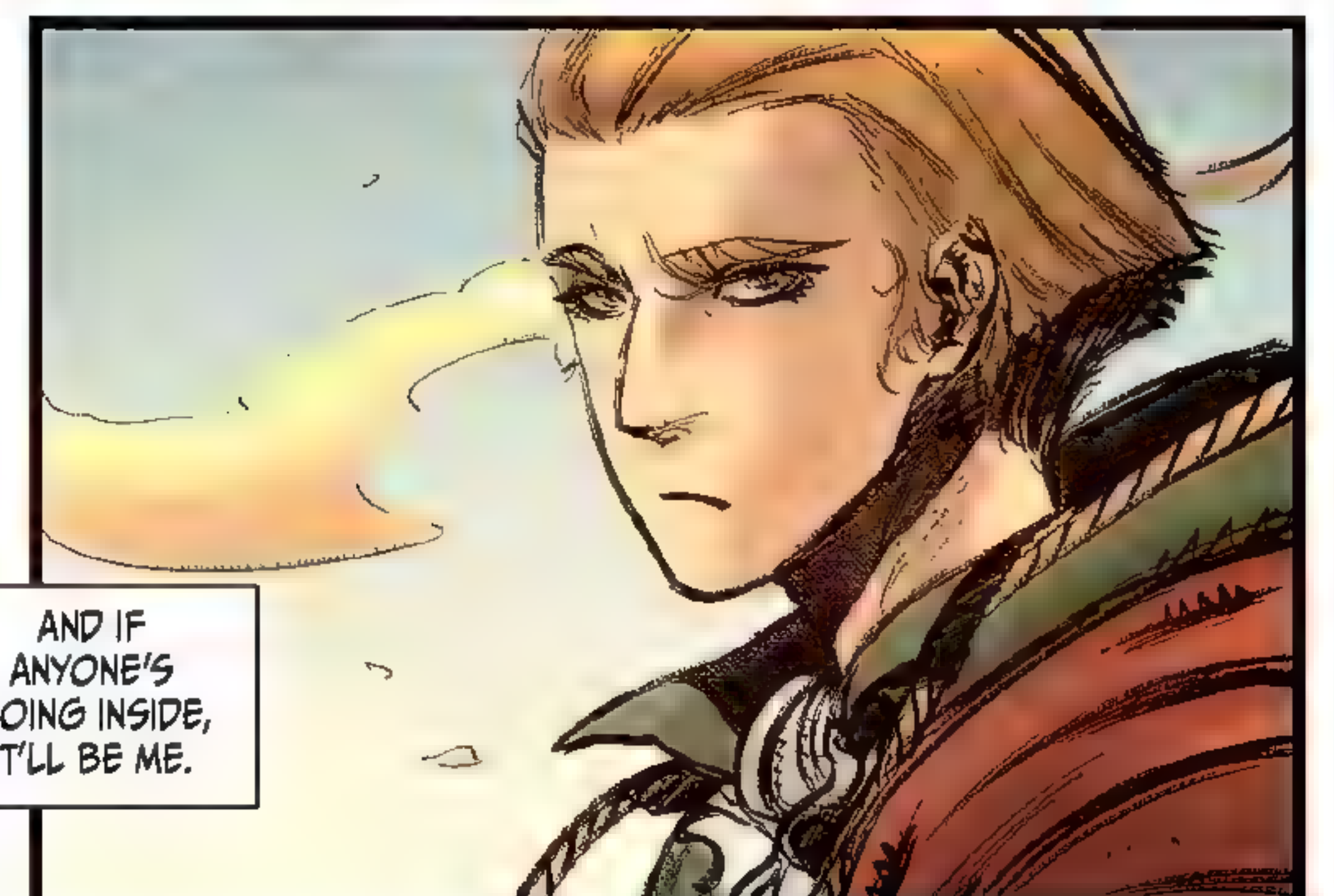
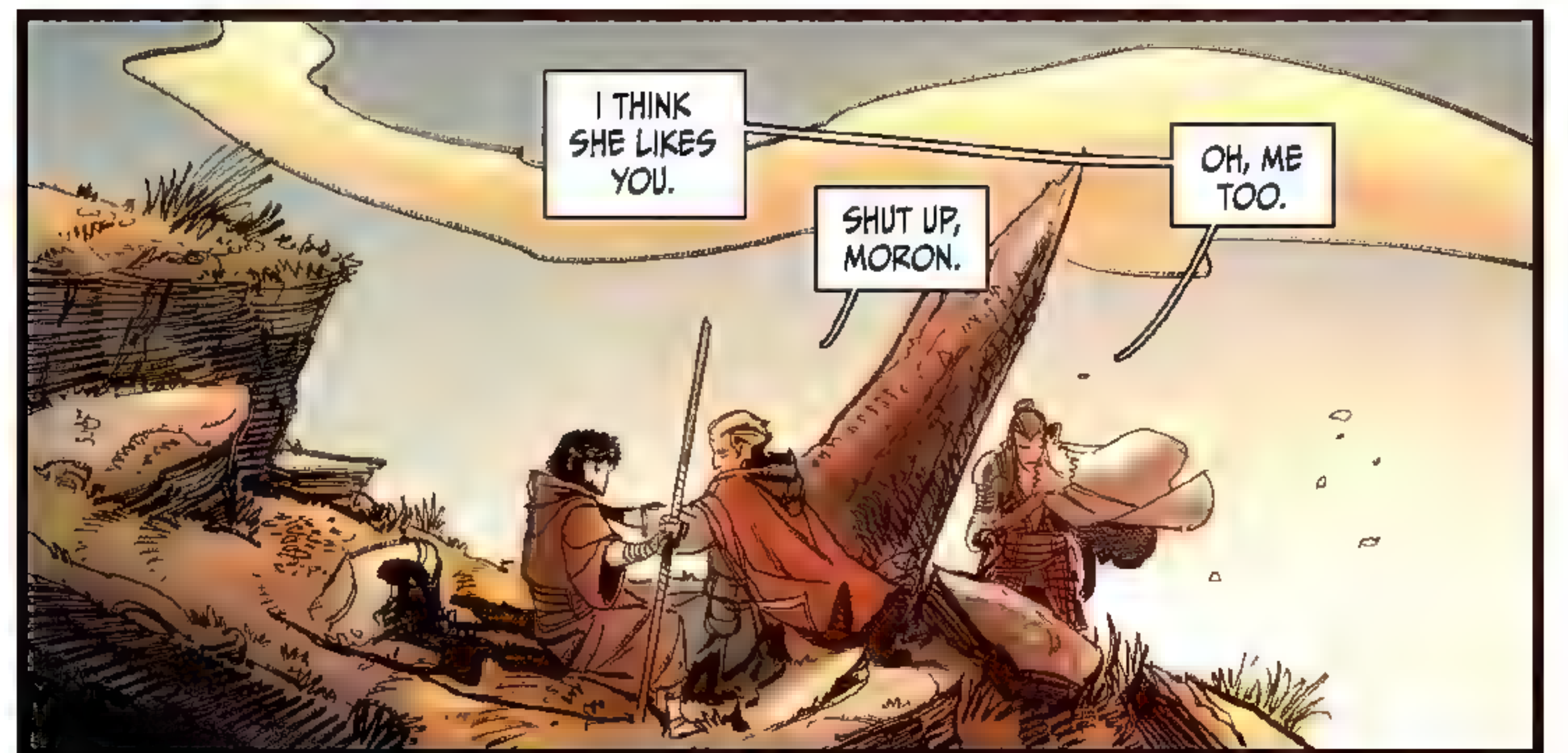
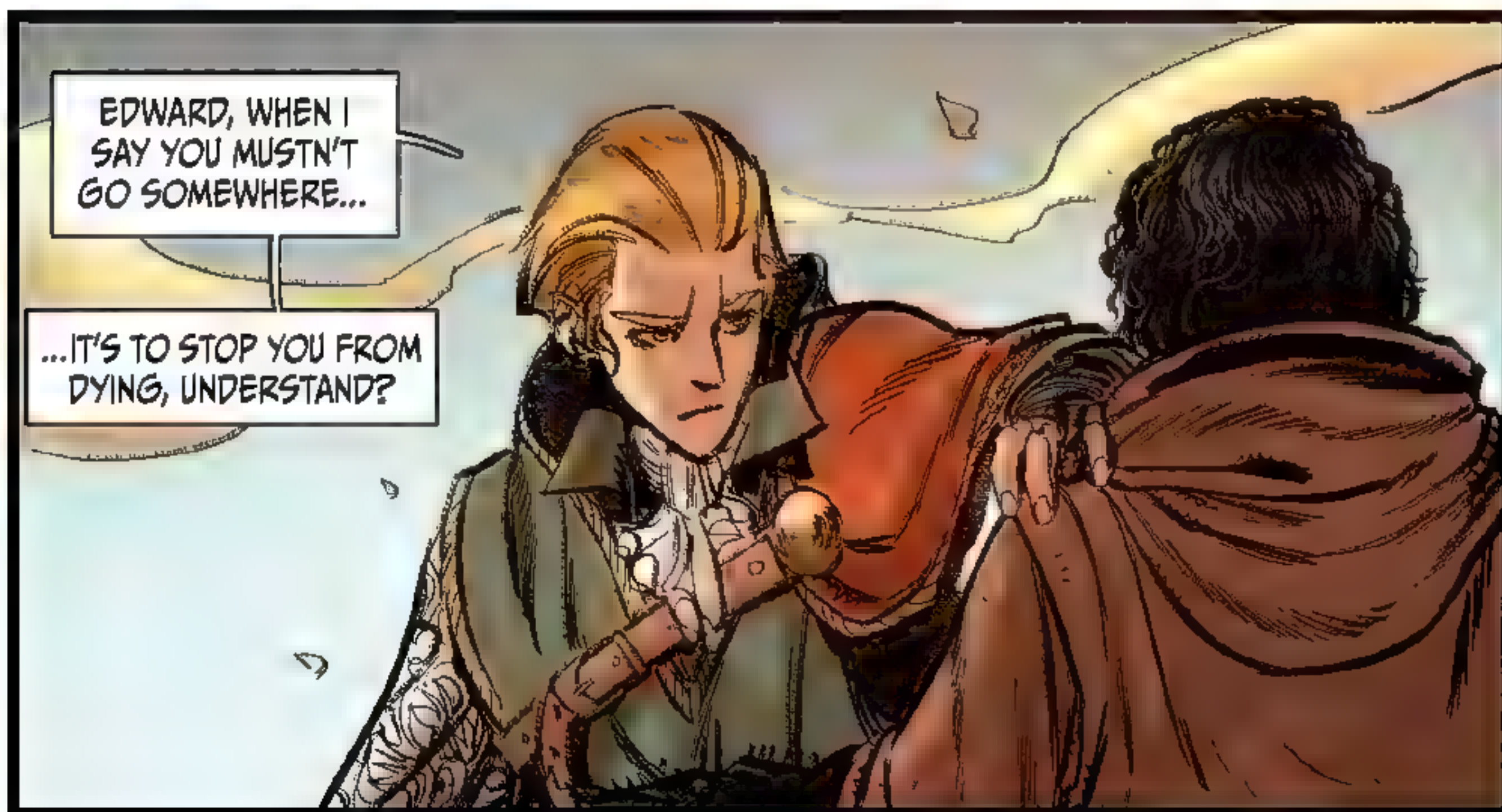
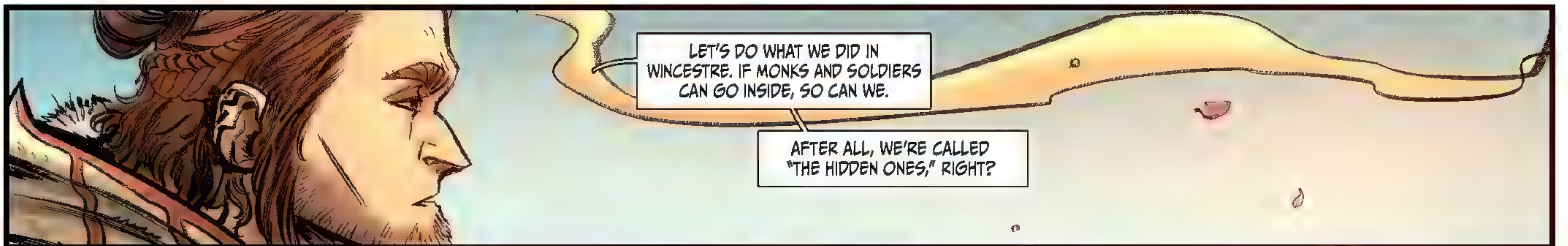
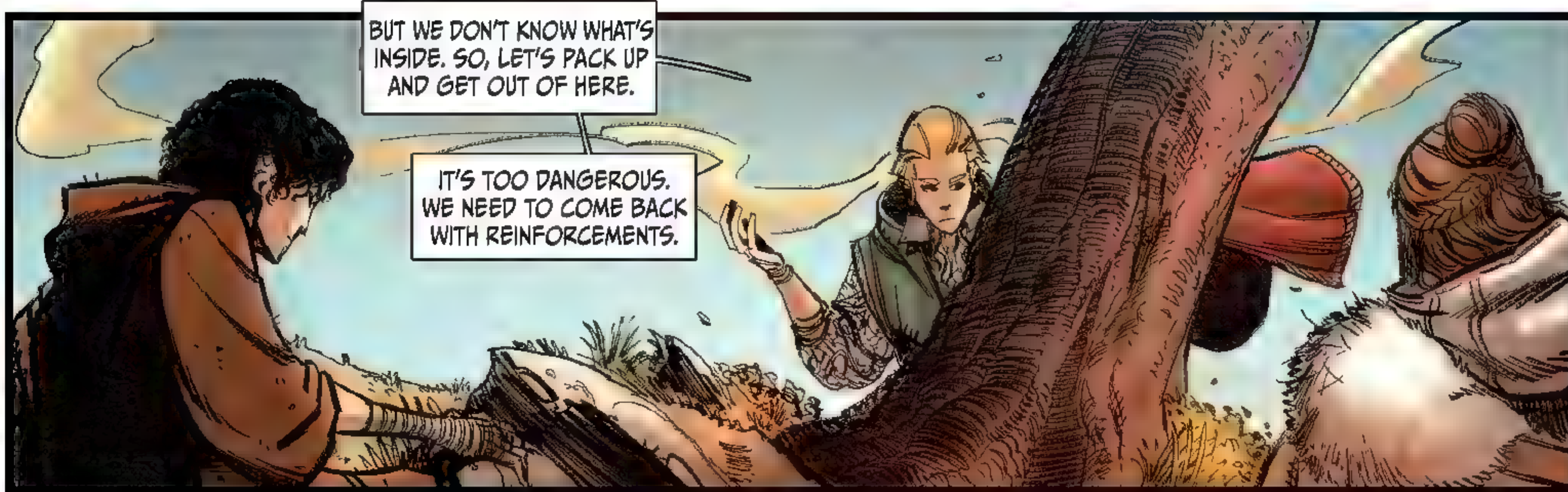
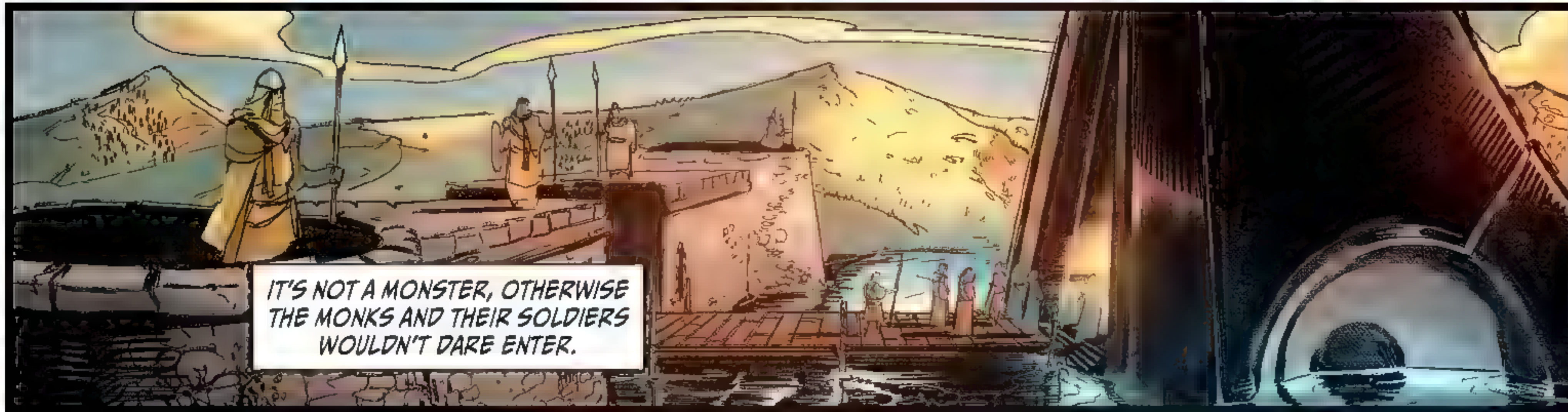
WE NEED TO
GET CLOSER.

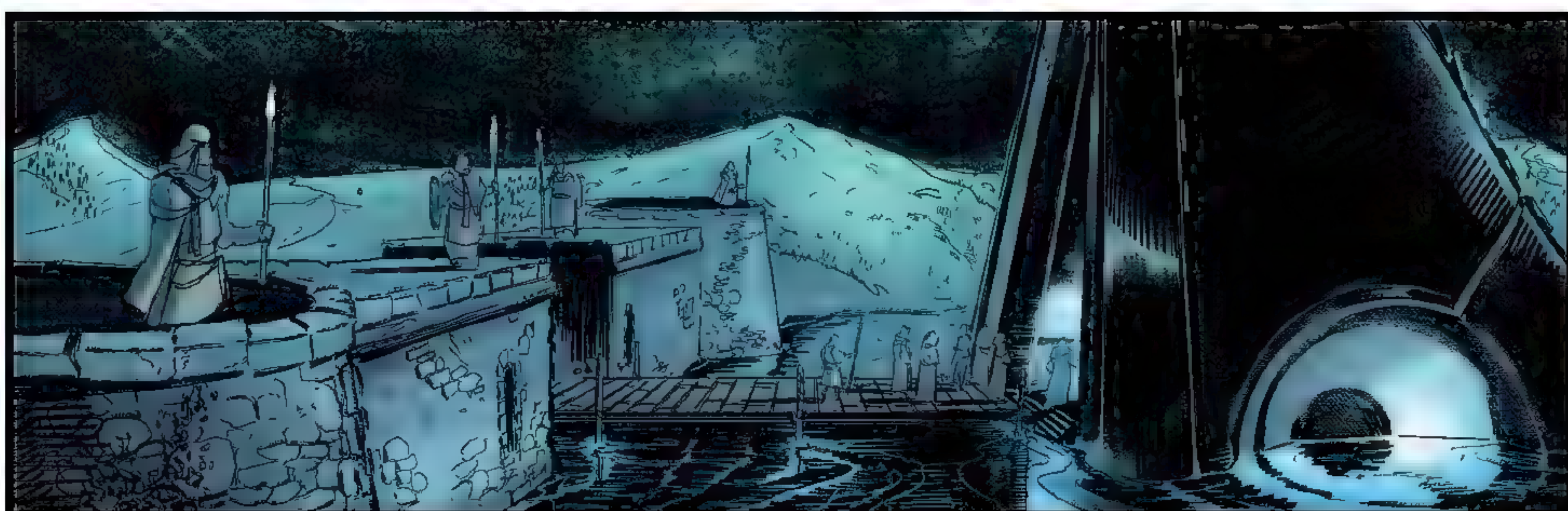
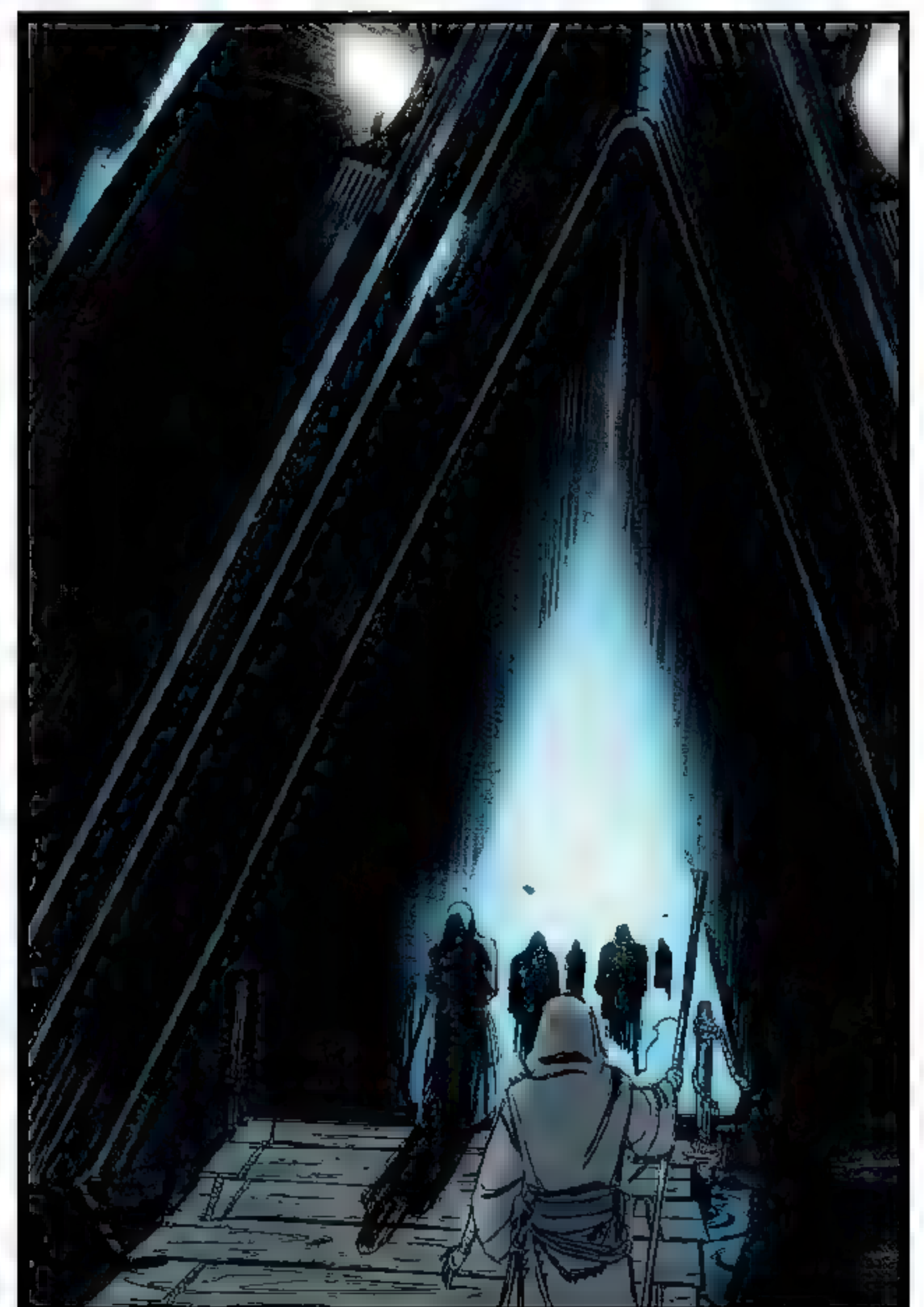
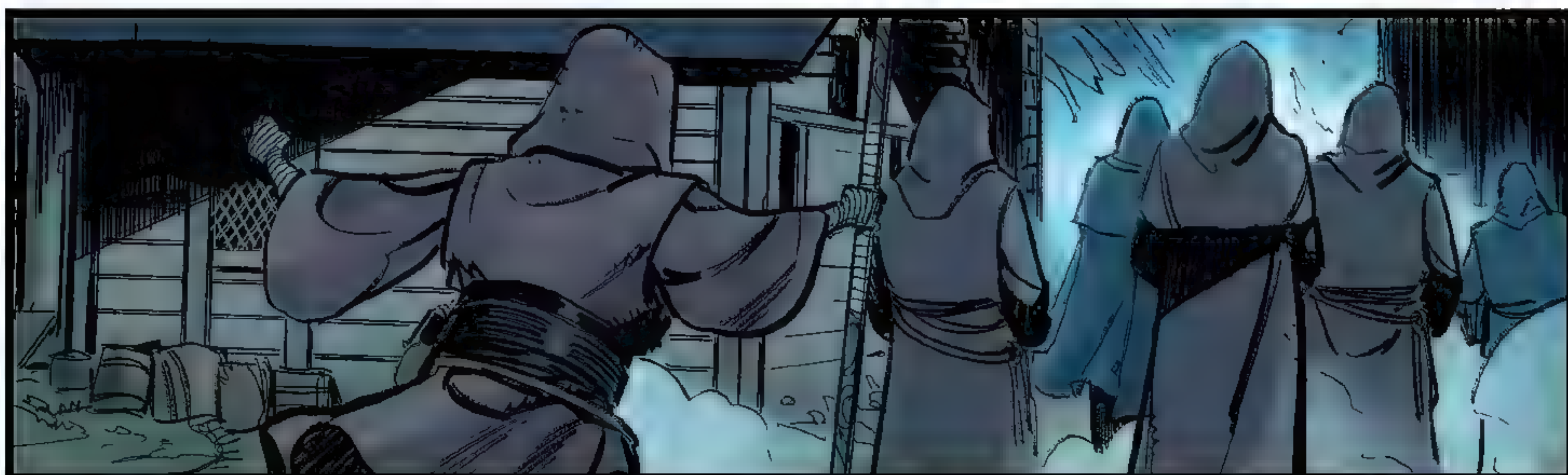
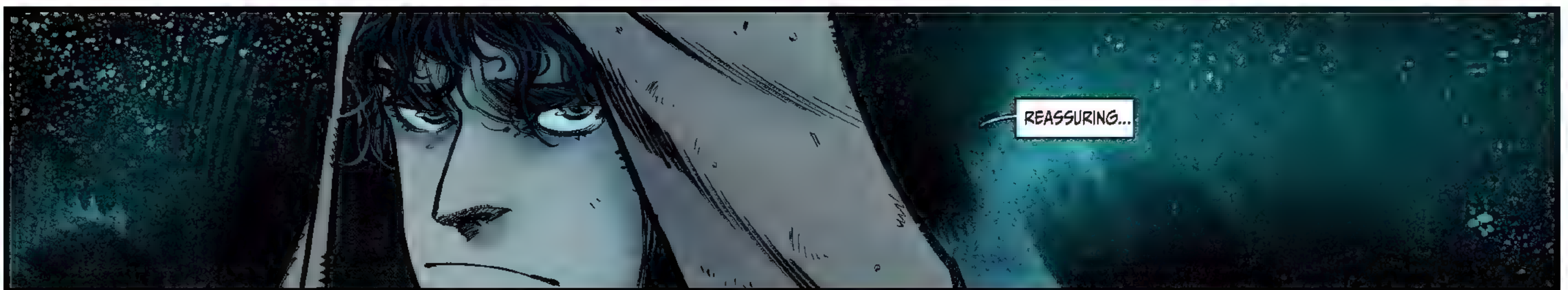
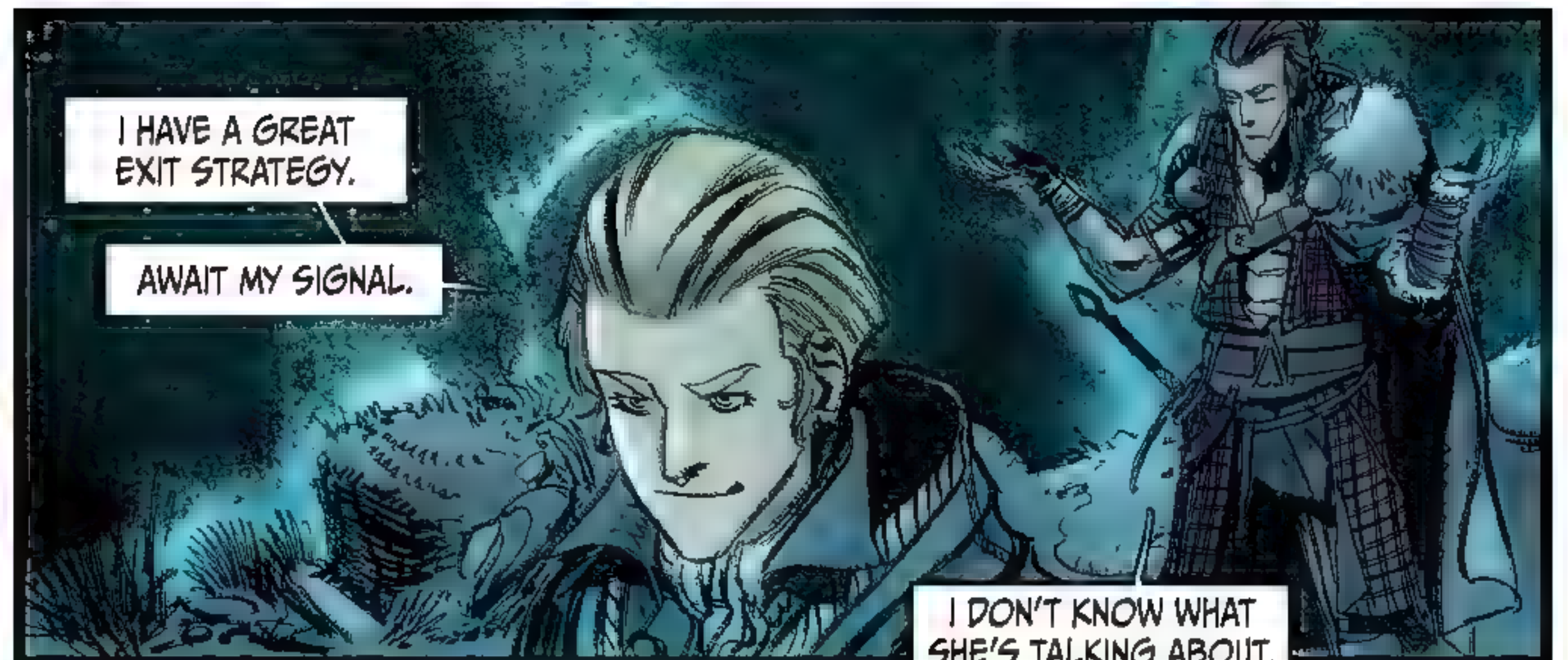
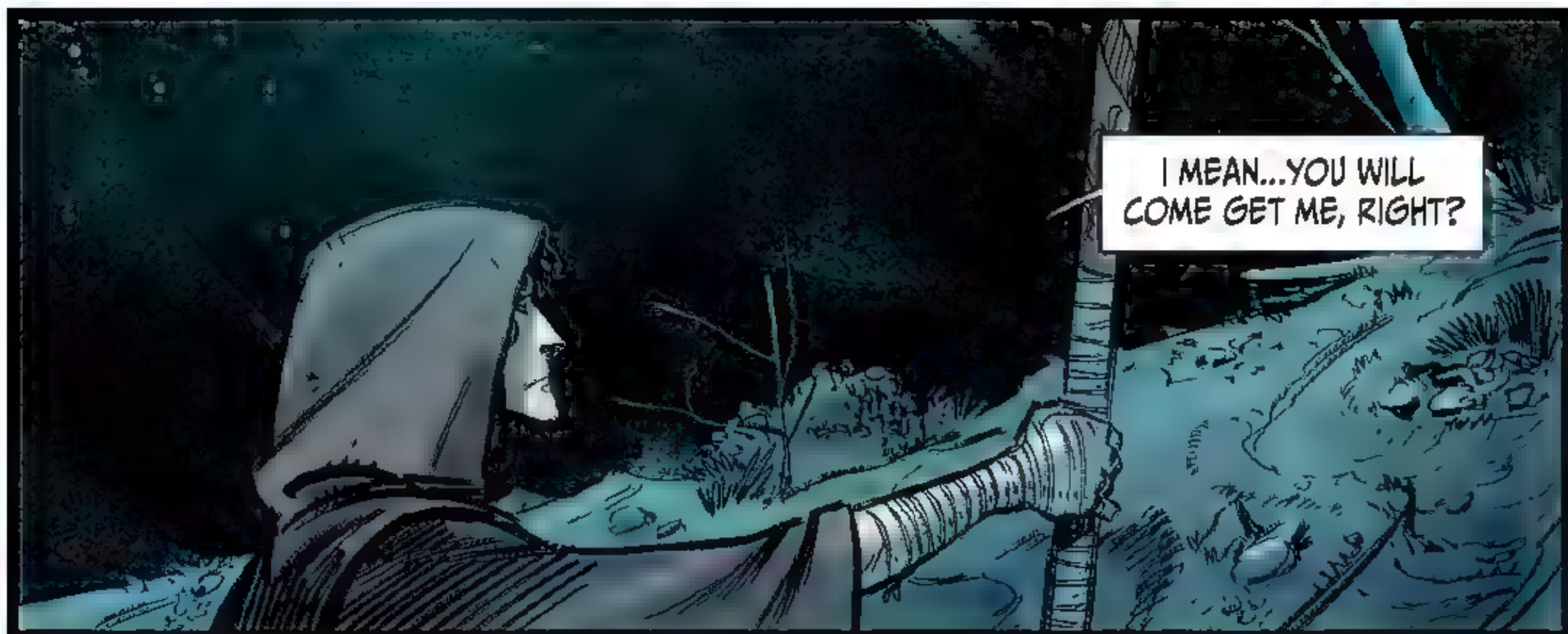
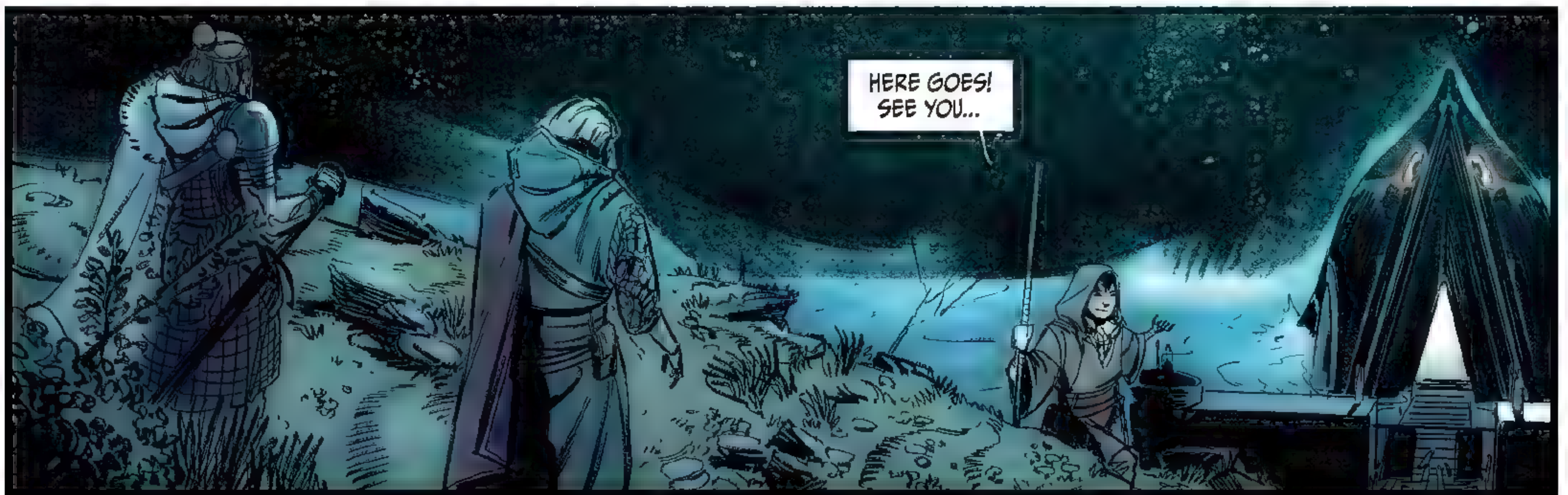
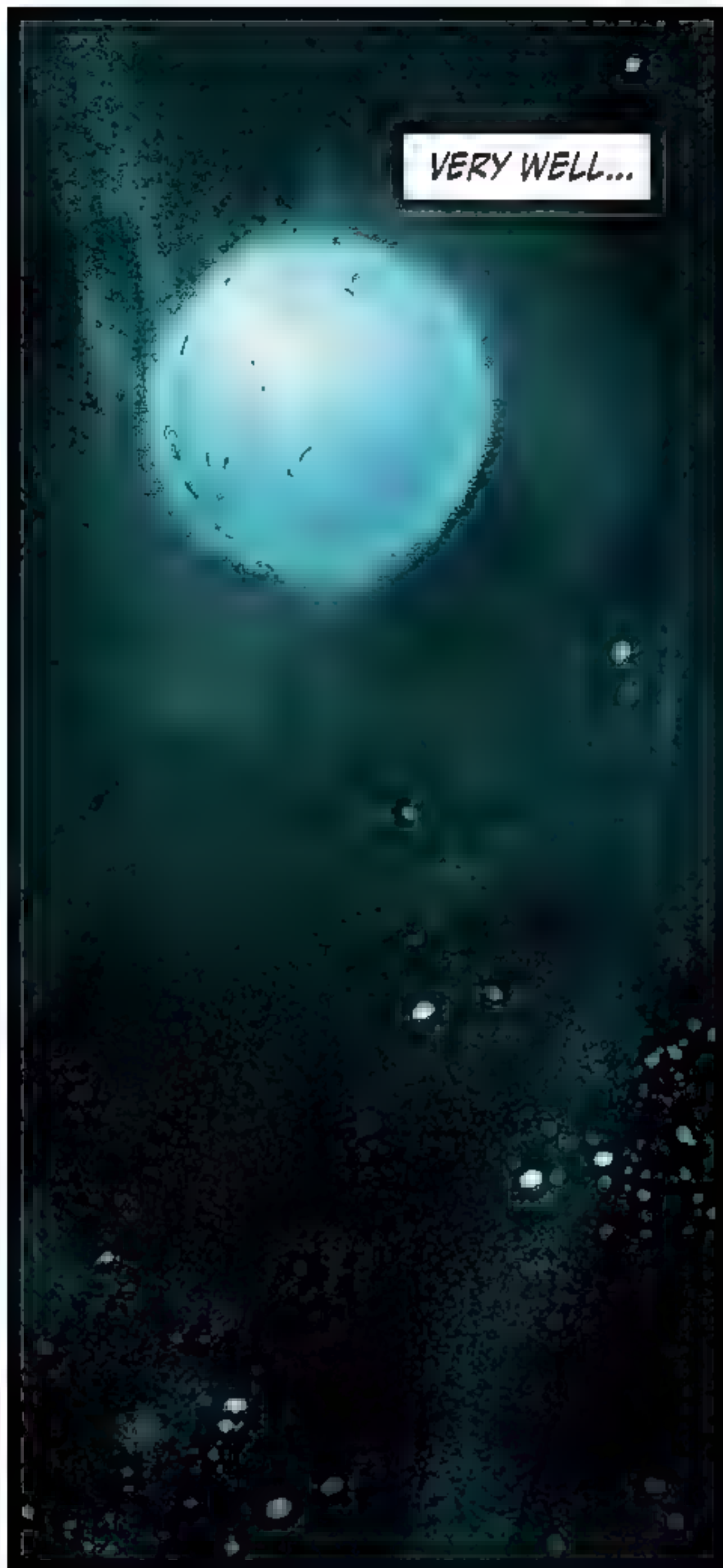


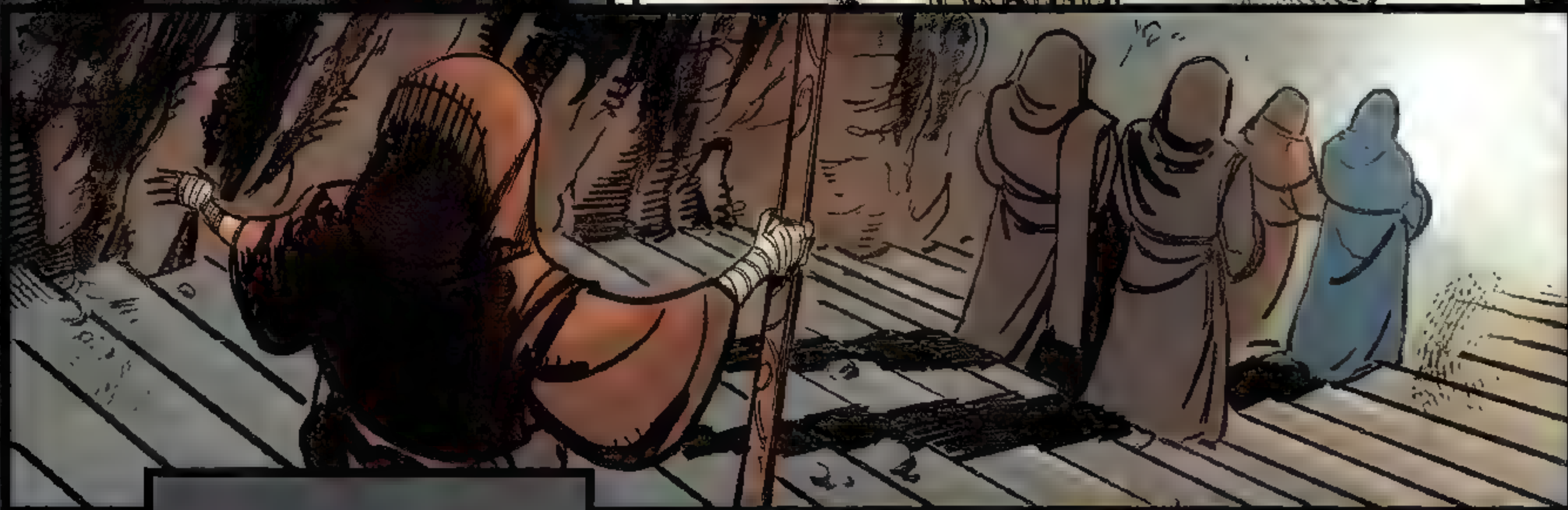
LOOK. WHAT IS
THAT?

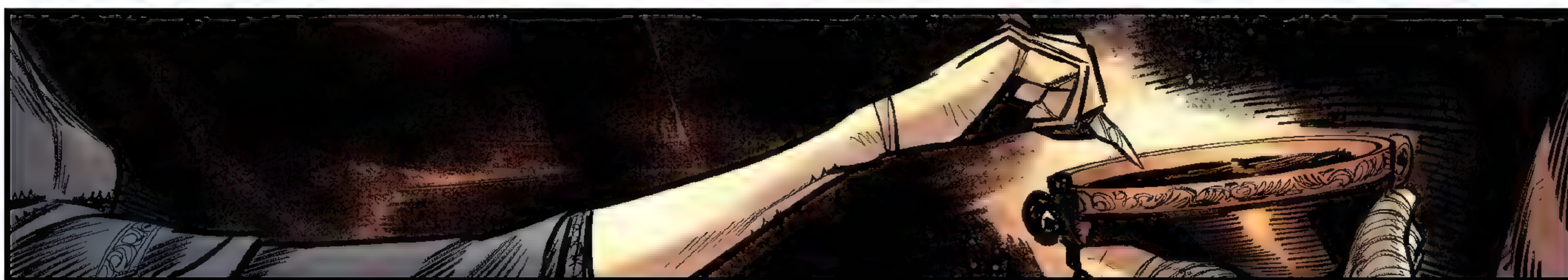
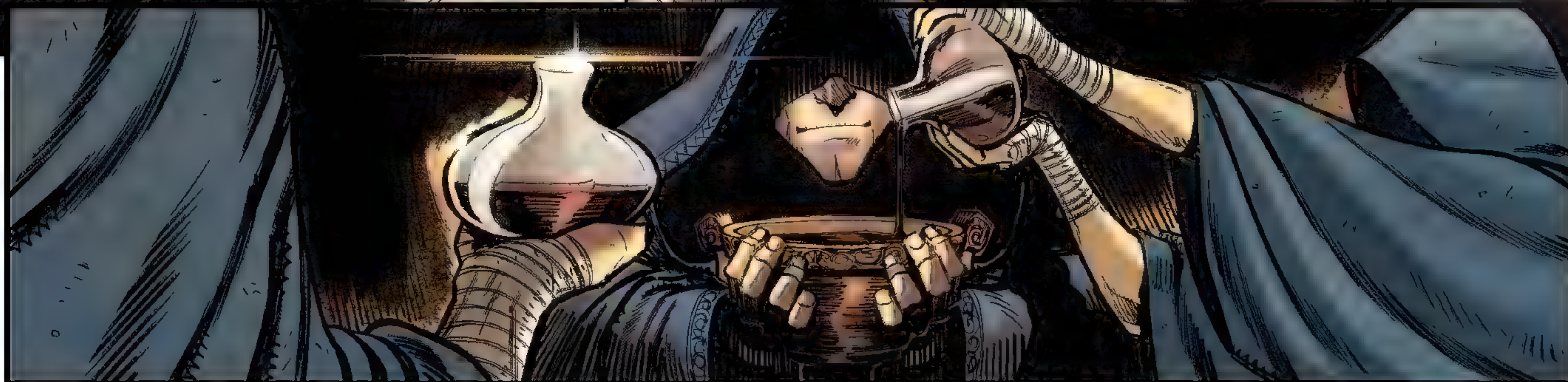


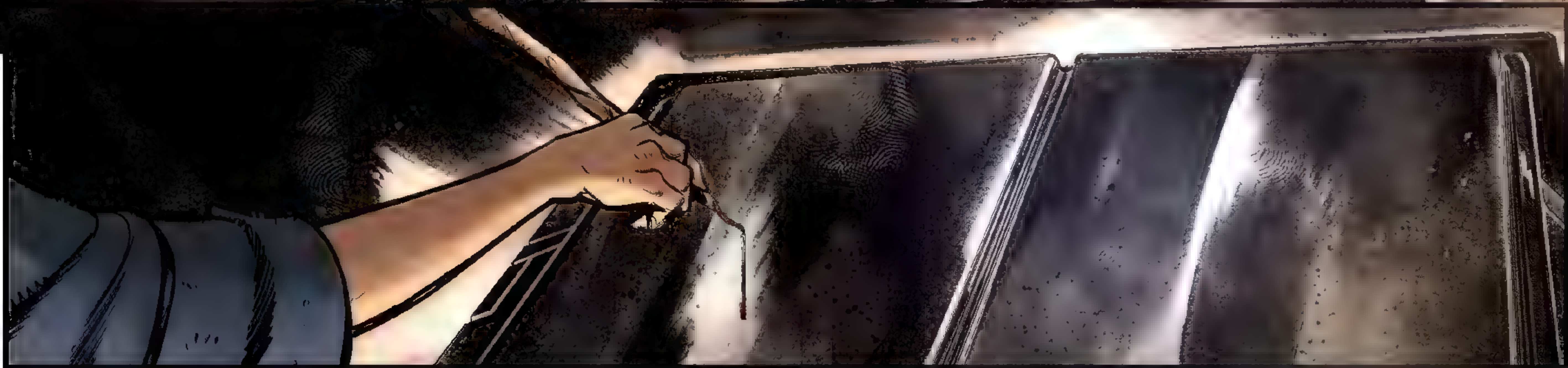












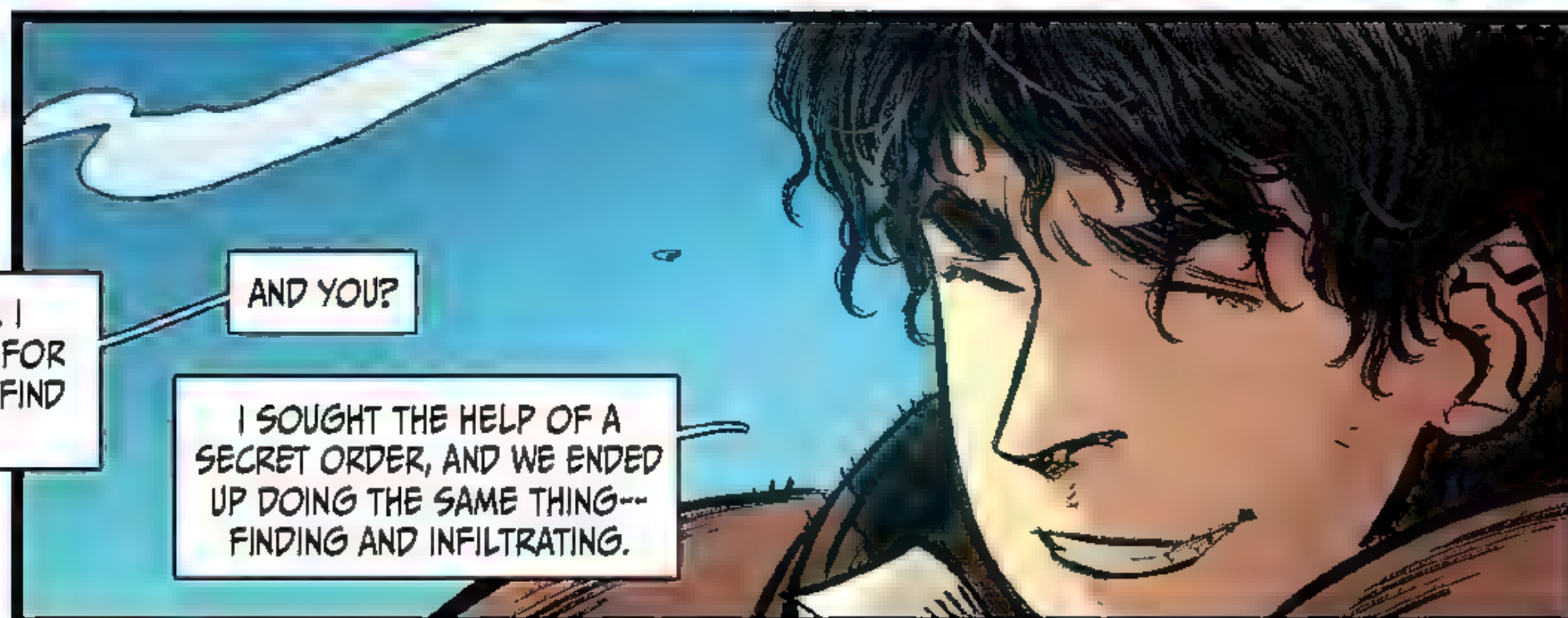
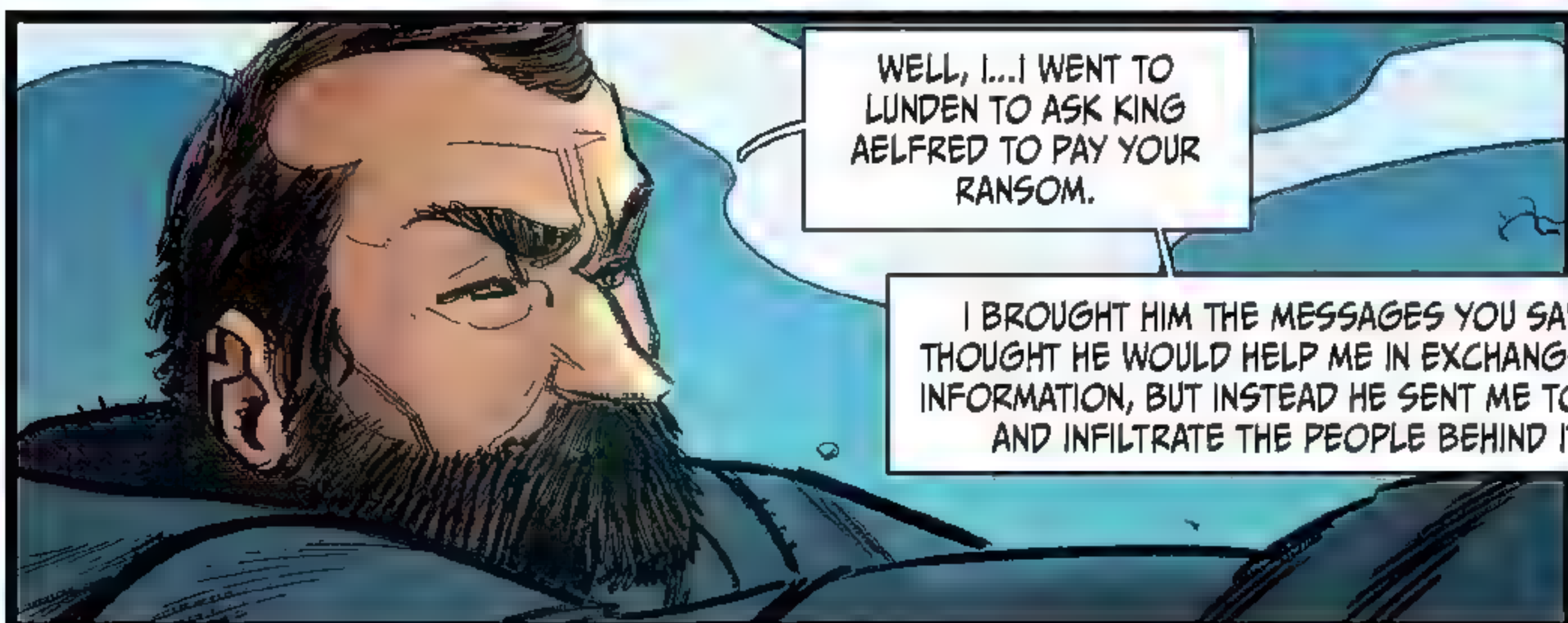
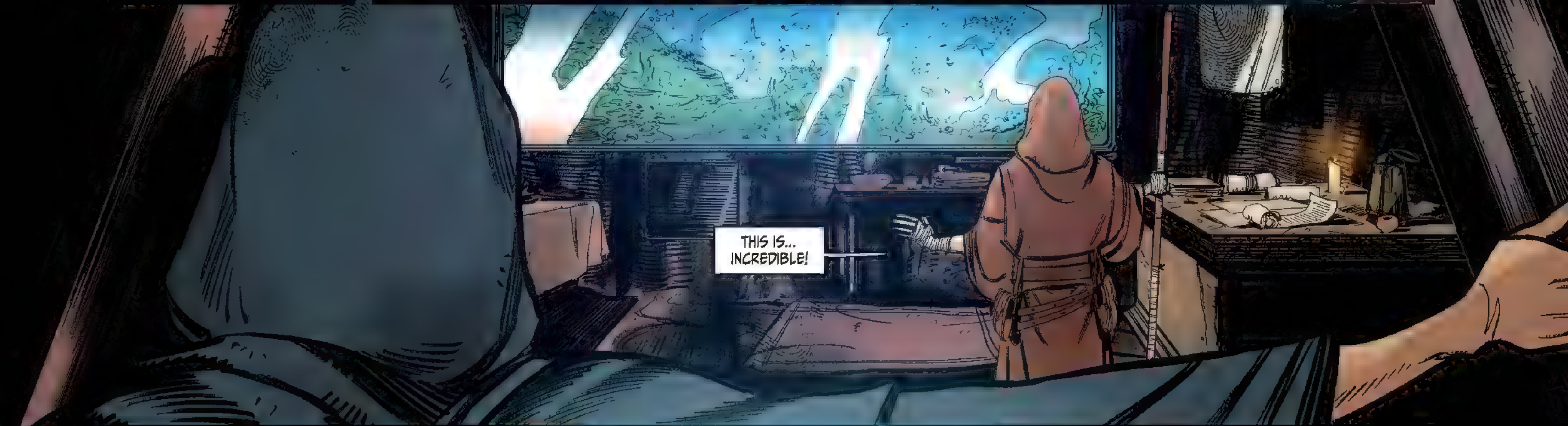
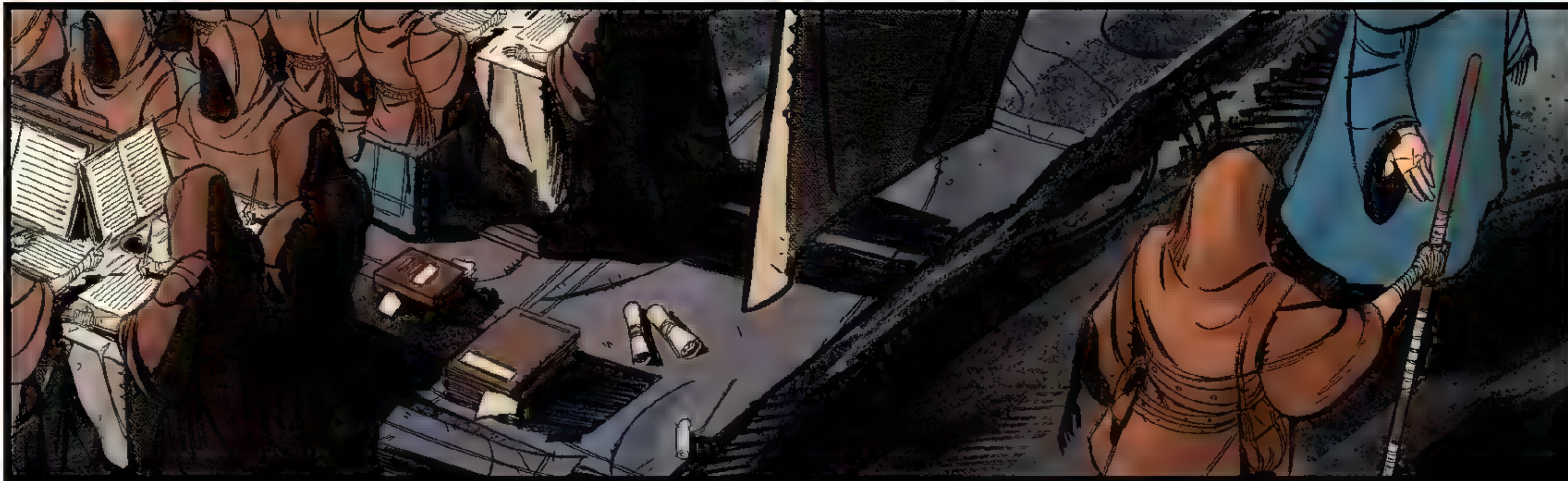
SO THAT'S
HOW HE
DOES IT...

EDWARD?



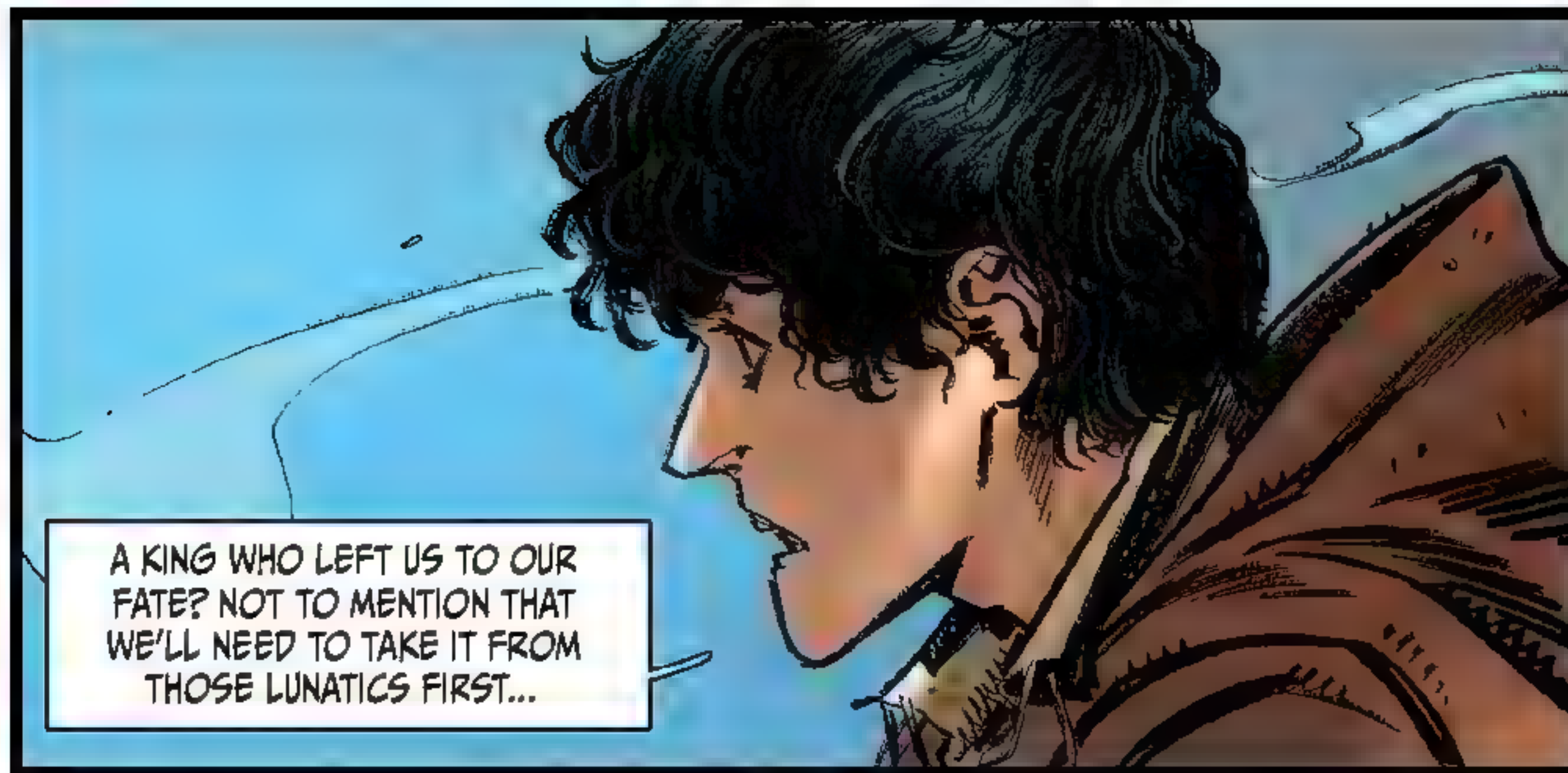
EC--

QUIET. COME.

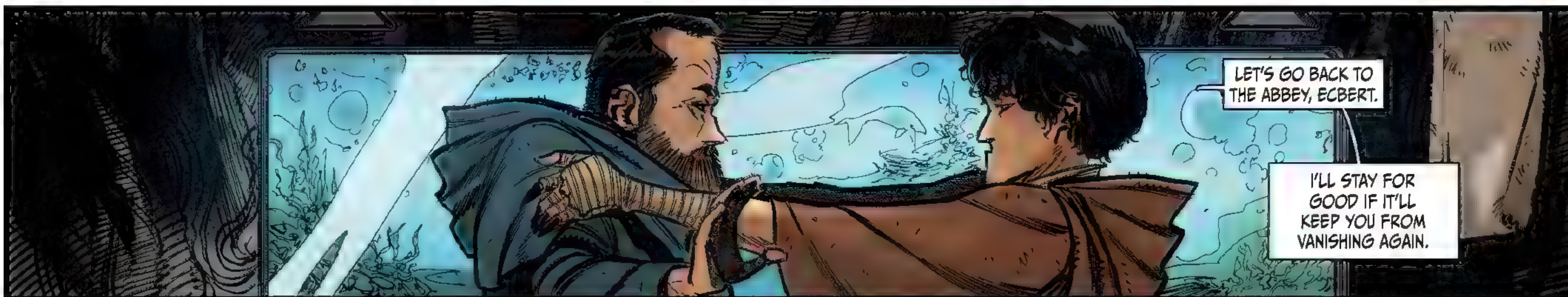




BUT TOGETHER, WE'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE. AND WE'VE FOUND WHAT AELFRED WAS LOOKING FOR. WE NEED TO TAKE IT TO HIM.

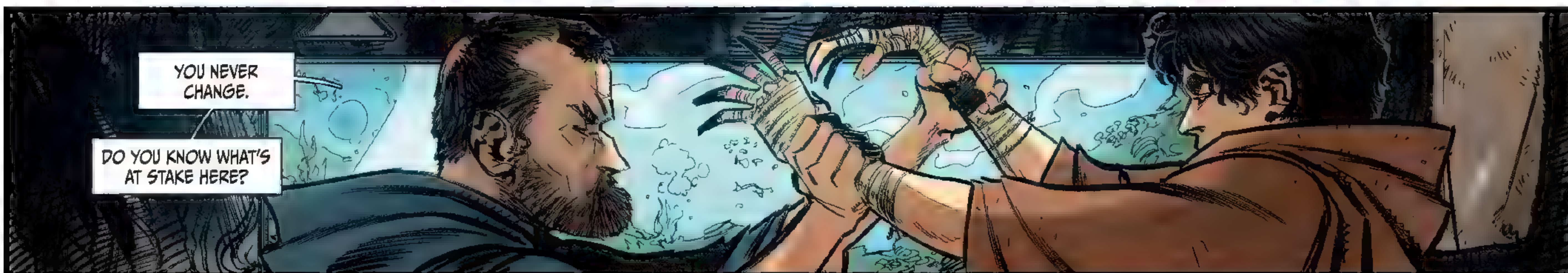


A KING WHO LEFT US TO OUR FATE? NOT TO MENTION THAT WE'LL NEED TO TAKE IT FROM THOSE LUNATICS FIRST...



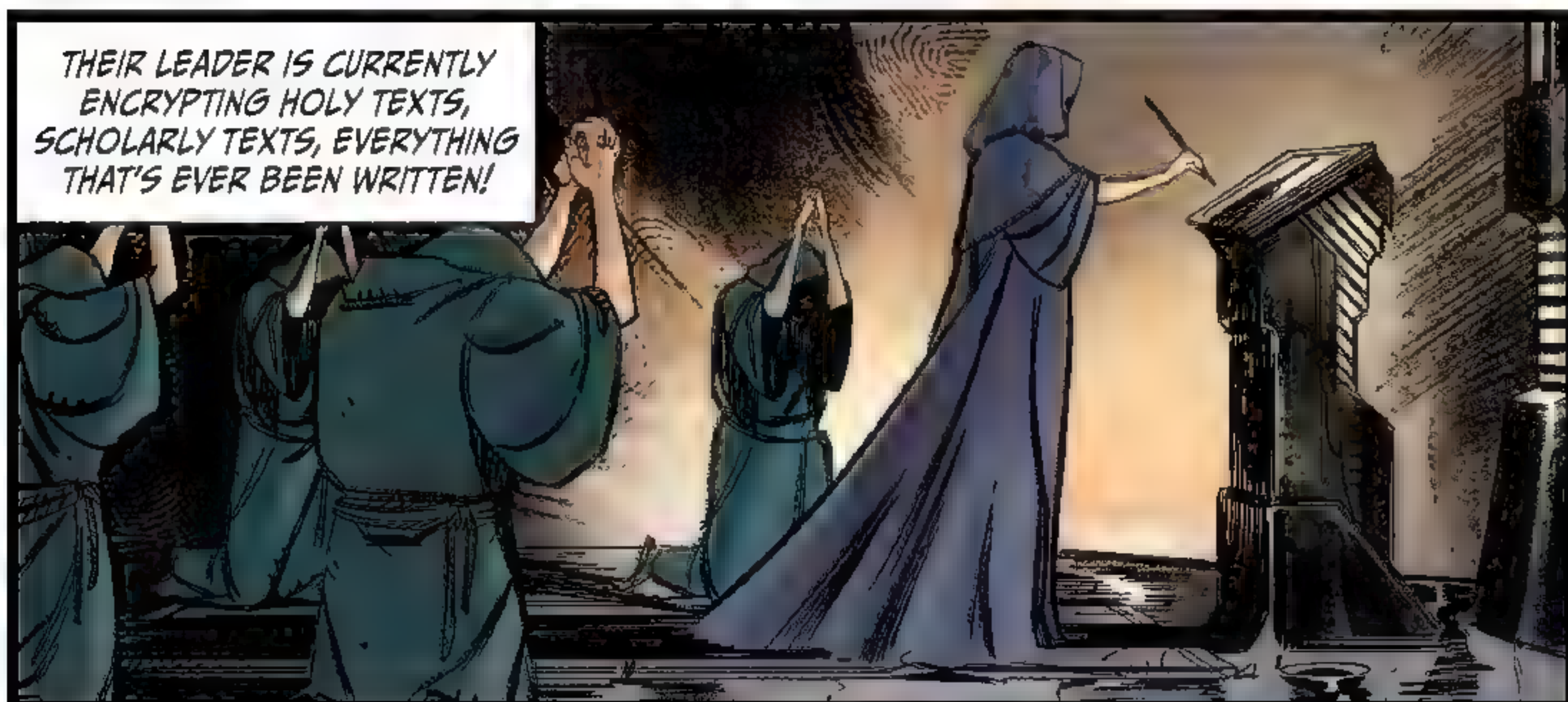
LET'S GO BACK TO THE ABBEY, ECBERT.

I'LL STAY FOR GOOD IF IT'LL KEEP YOU FROM VANISHING AGAIN.

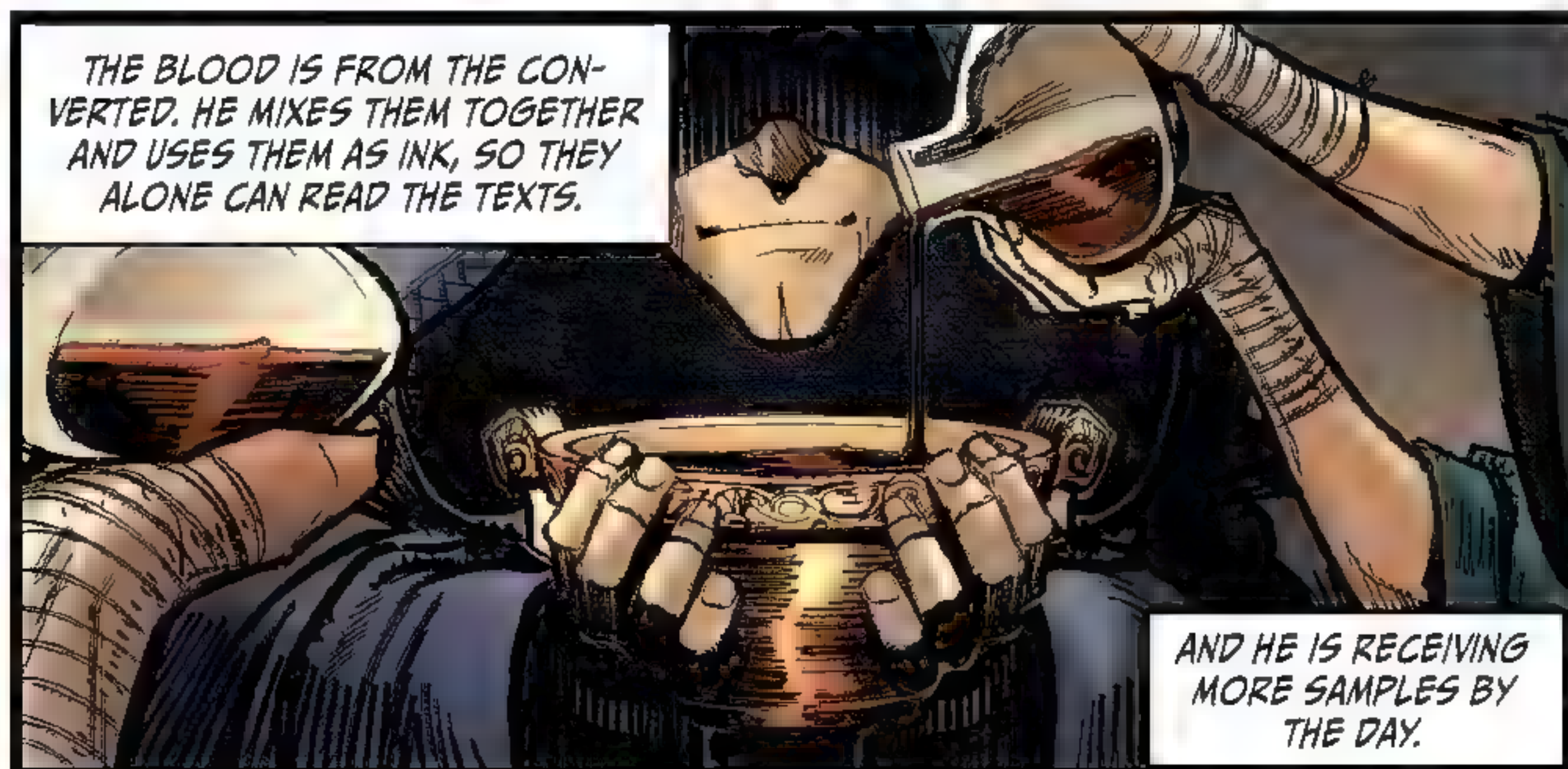


YOU NEVER CHANGE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE HERE?

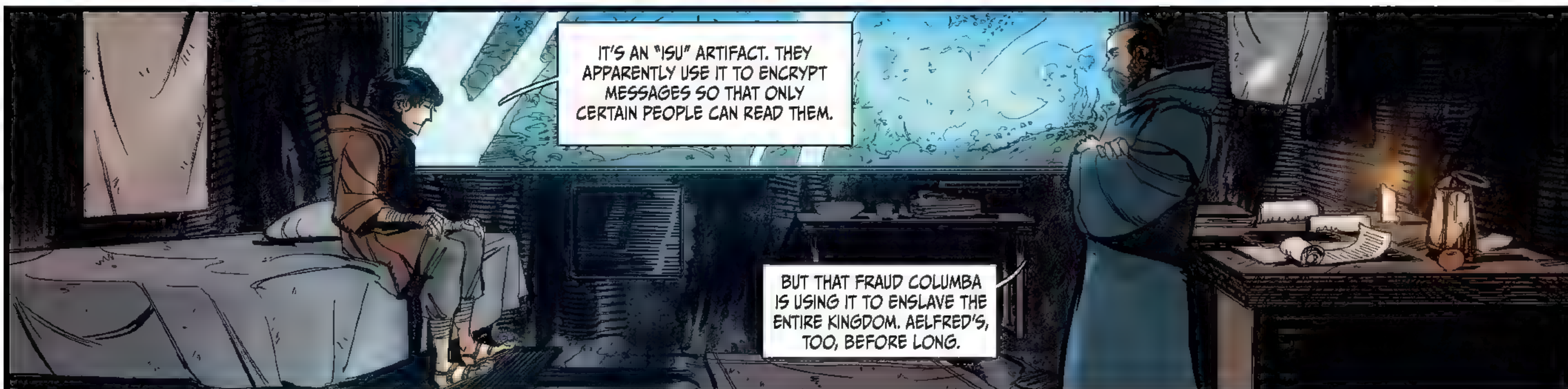


THEIR LEADER IS CURRENTLY ENCRYPTING HOLY TEXTS, SCHOLARLY TEXTS, EVERYTHING THAT'S EVER BEEN WRITTEN!



THE BLOOD IS FROM THE CONVERTED. HE MIXES THEM TOGETHER AND USES THEM AS INK, SO THEY ALONE CAN READ THE TEXTS.

AND HE IS RECEIVING MORE SAMPLES BY THE DAY.

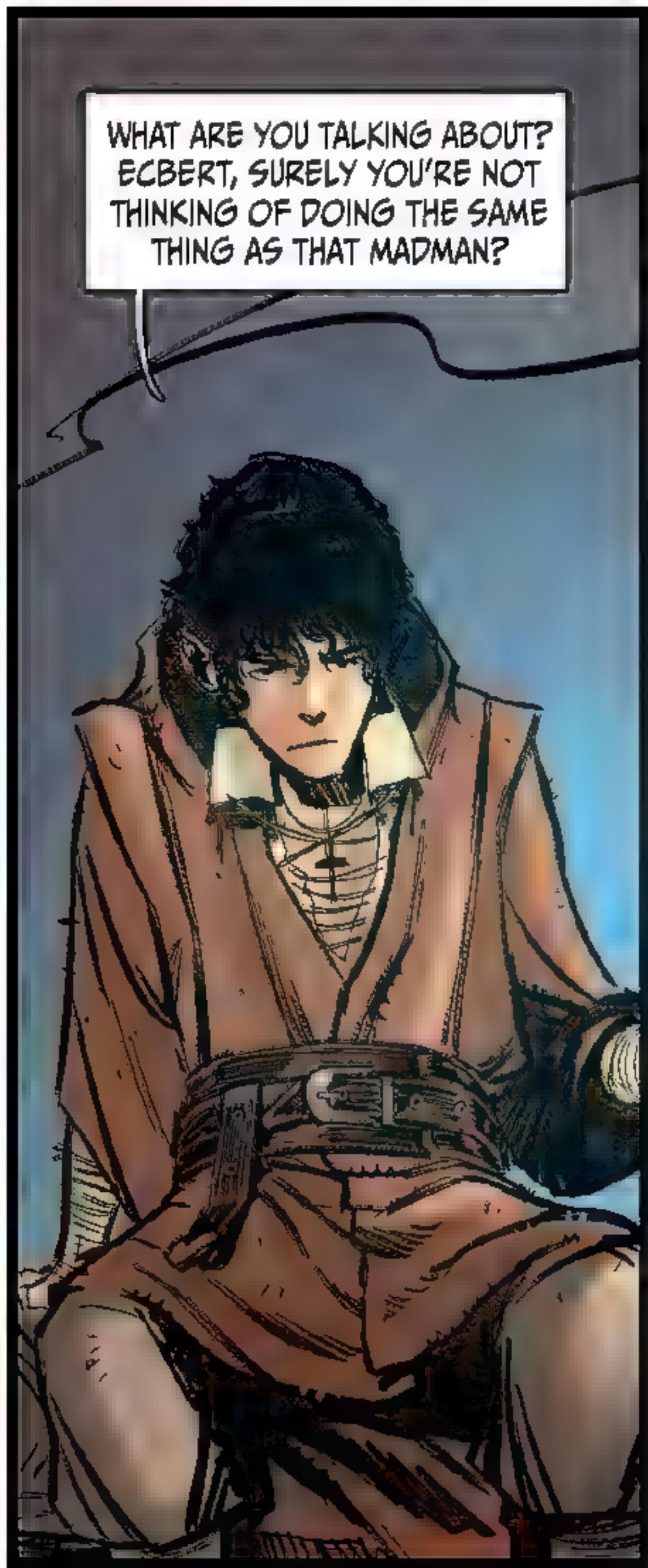


IT'S AN "ISU" ARTIFACT. THEY APPARENTLY USE IT TO ENCRYPT MESSAGES SO THAT ONLY CERTAIN PEOPLE CAN READ THEM.

BUT THAT FRAUD COLUMBA IS USING IT TO ENSLAVE THE ENTIRE KINGDOM. AELFRED'S, TOO, BEFORE LONG.



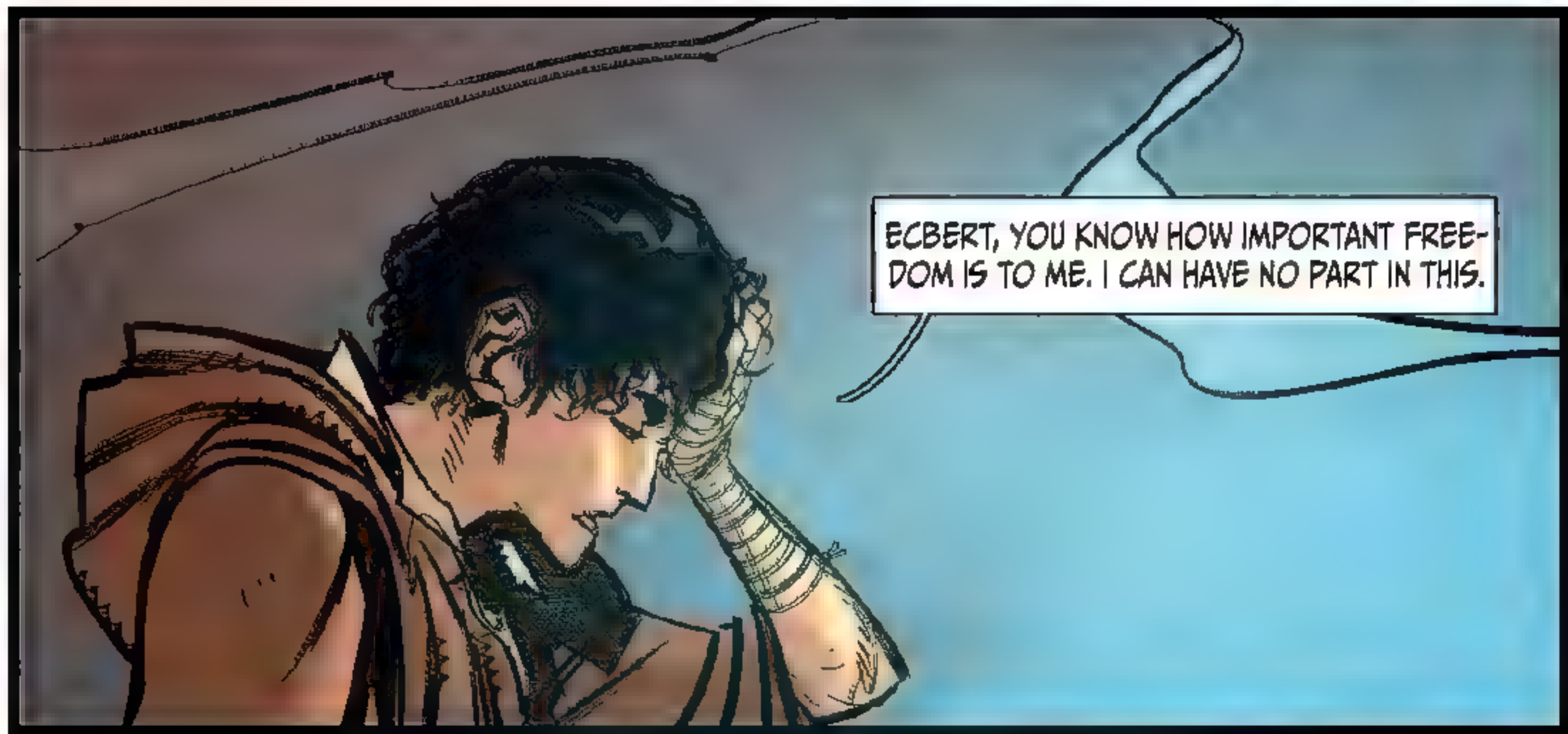
BUT IN THE RIGHT HANDS, THIS OBJECT COULD GIVE CONTROL OF THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH... TO THOSE WHO DESERVE IT.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ECBERT, SURELY YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF DOING THE SAME THING AS THAT MADMAN?



THAT MADMAN WAS ABLE TO CONVERT VIKINGS, SCOTS, AND PICTS, EDWARD! THROUGH THE MIRACLE OF THE DIVINE WORD! THE DAYS OF PILLAGING ARE OVER!



ECBERT, YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT FREEDOM IS TO ME. I CAN HAVE NO PART IN THIS.



FREEDOM...NOBODY WANTS THAT, EDWARD. NOBODY.

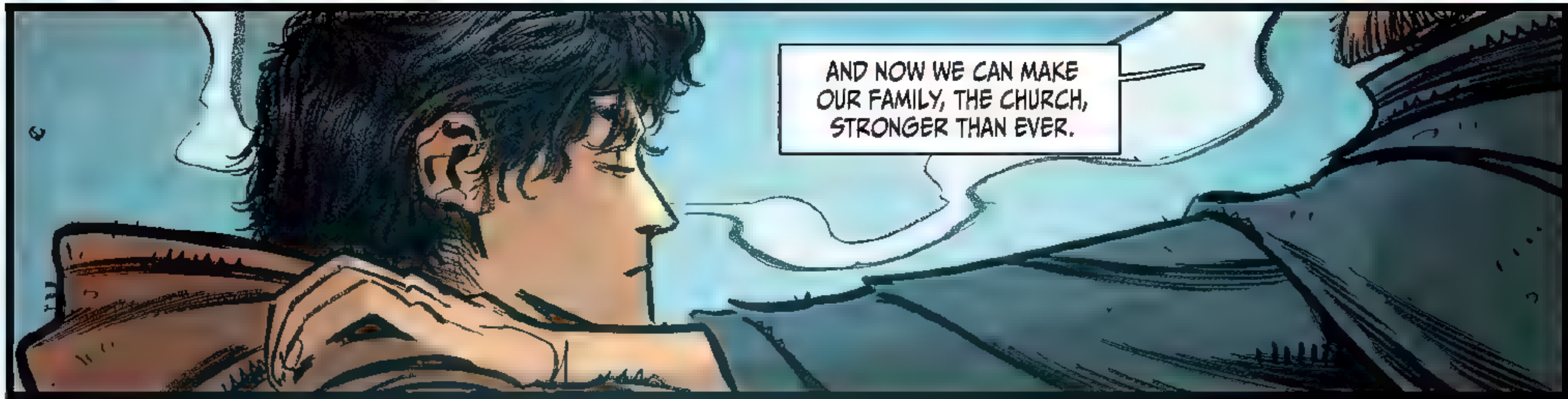
WE WANT PRISONS THAT GIVE US THE ILLUSION OF BEING FREE. CELLMATES WE CAN SHARE A CAUSE AND VALUES WITH.



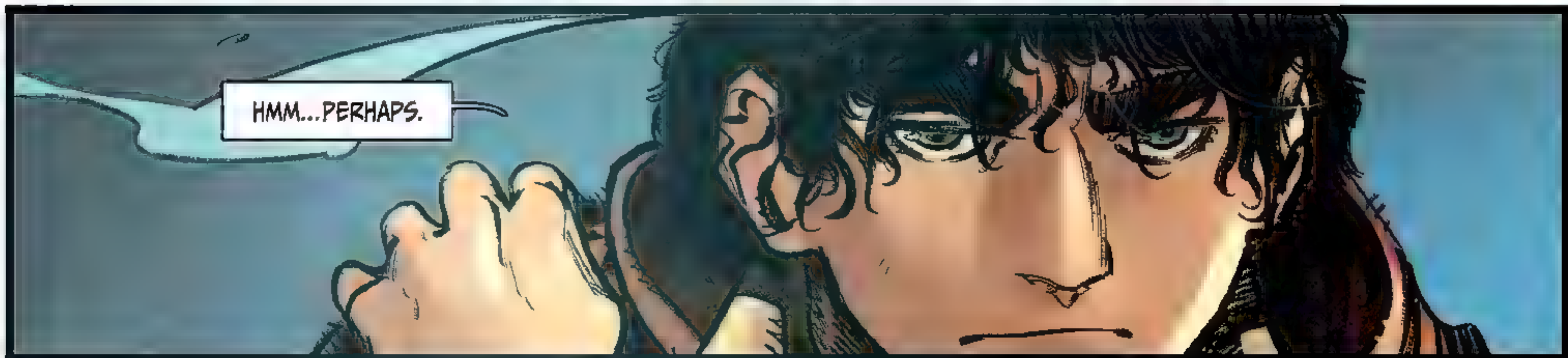
FREEDOM IS SOLITUDE. WHAT WE ARE SEARCHING FOR IS COMPANIONS WHO LOVE US AND WHOM WE LOVE IN RETURN.

CALL IT A COURT, A GROUP, AN ARMY...

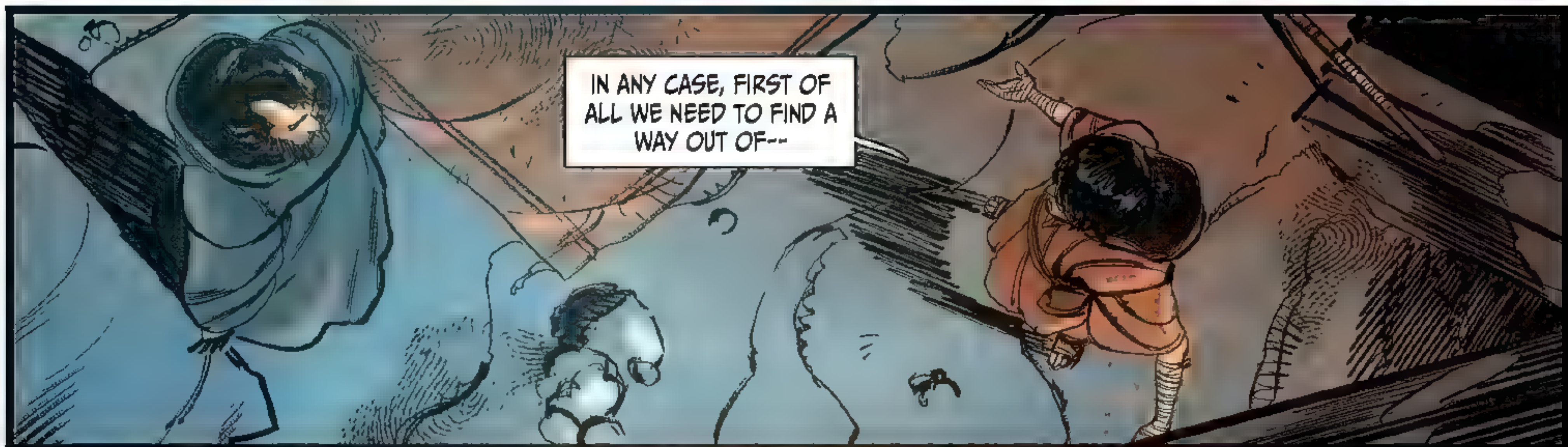
...OR A FAMILY. THE CHOICE IS YOURS. BUT YOU FOUND YOUR OWN A LONG TIME AGO.



AND NOW WE CAN MAKE OUR FAMILY, THE CHURCH, STRONGER THAN EVER.



HMM...PERHAPS.



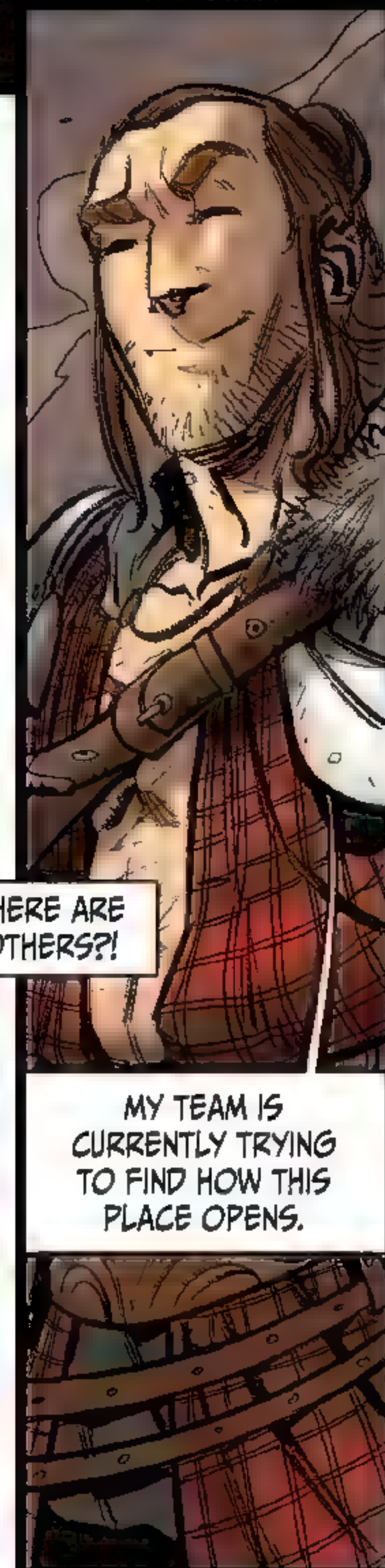
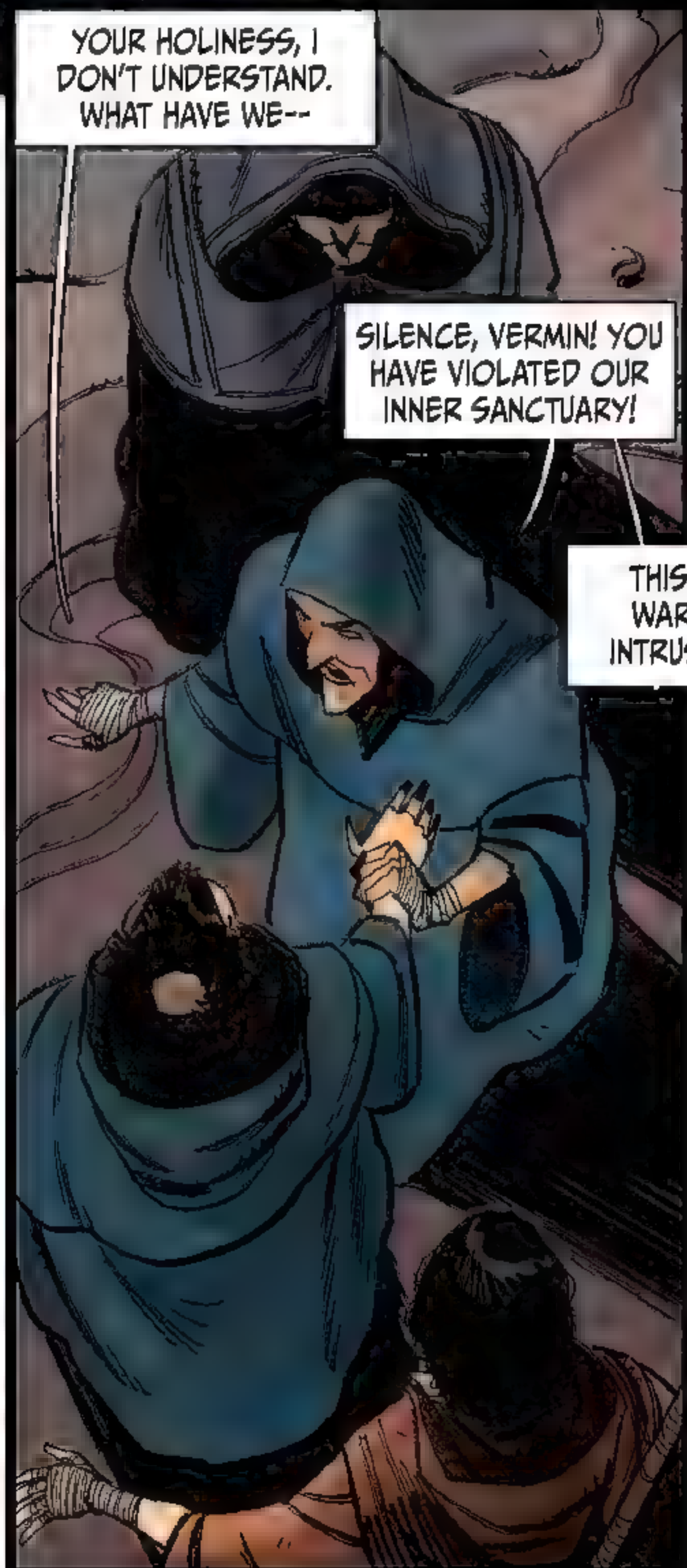
IN ANY CASE, FIRST OF ALL WE NEED TO FIND A WAY OUT OF--



PEACE OF THE REBORN, BROTHER.

CAN WE SEE YOUR MARK?

UH...





RUUUUUUN!!!



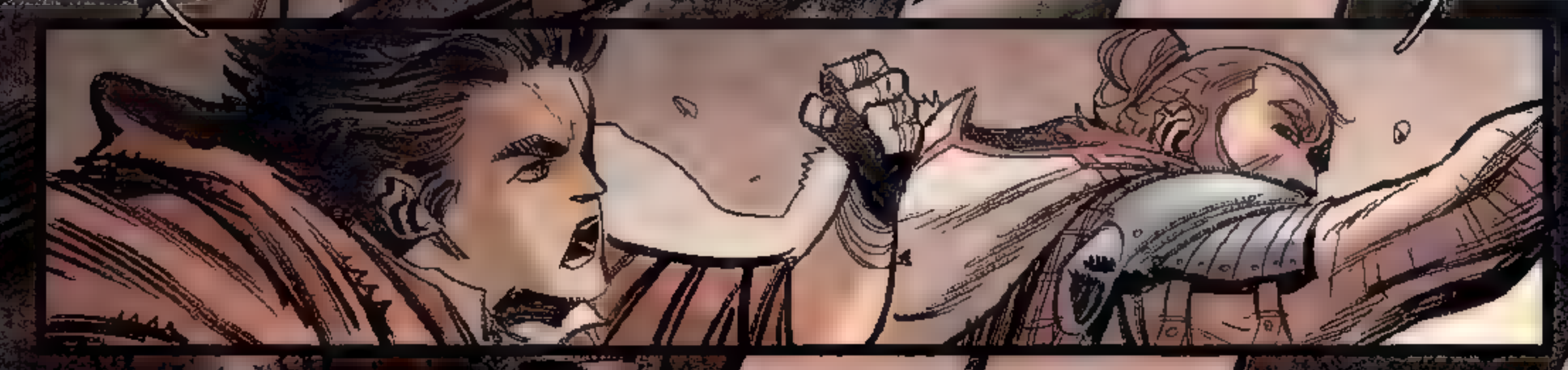
UPSTAIRS, HURRY!

BUT...IT'S FLOODING!

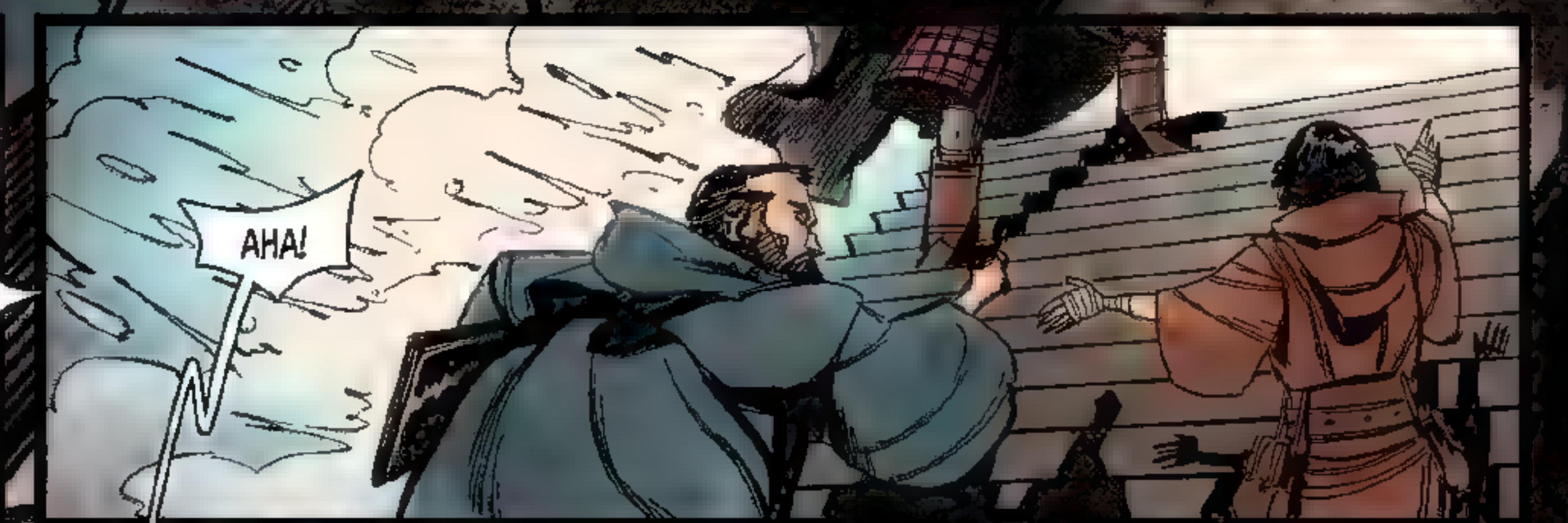
THE WATER WILL STOP ONCE IT REACHES THE LEVEL OF THE ENTRANCE! IN THE MEANTIME, SEE TO HIS HOLINESS AND THE--

THIS IS YOUR PLAN?!

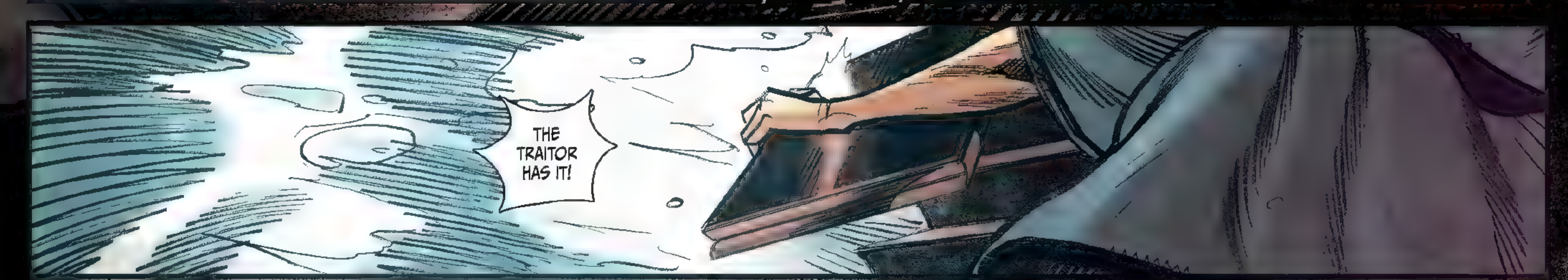
IT WAS ADELAIDE'S!



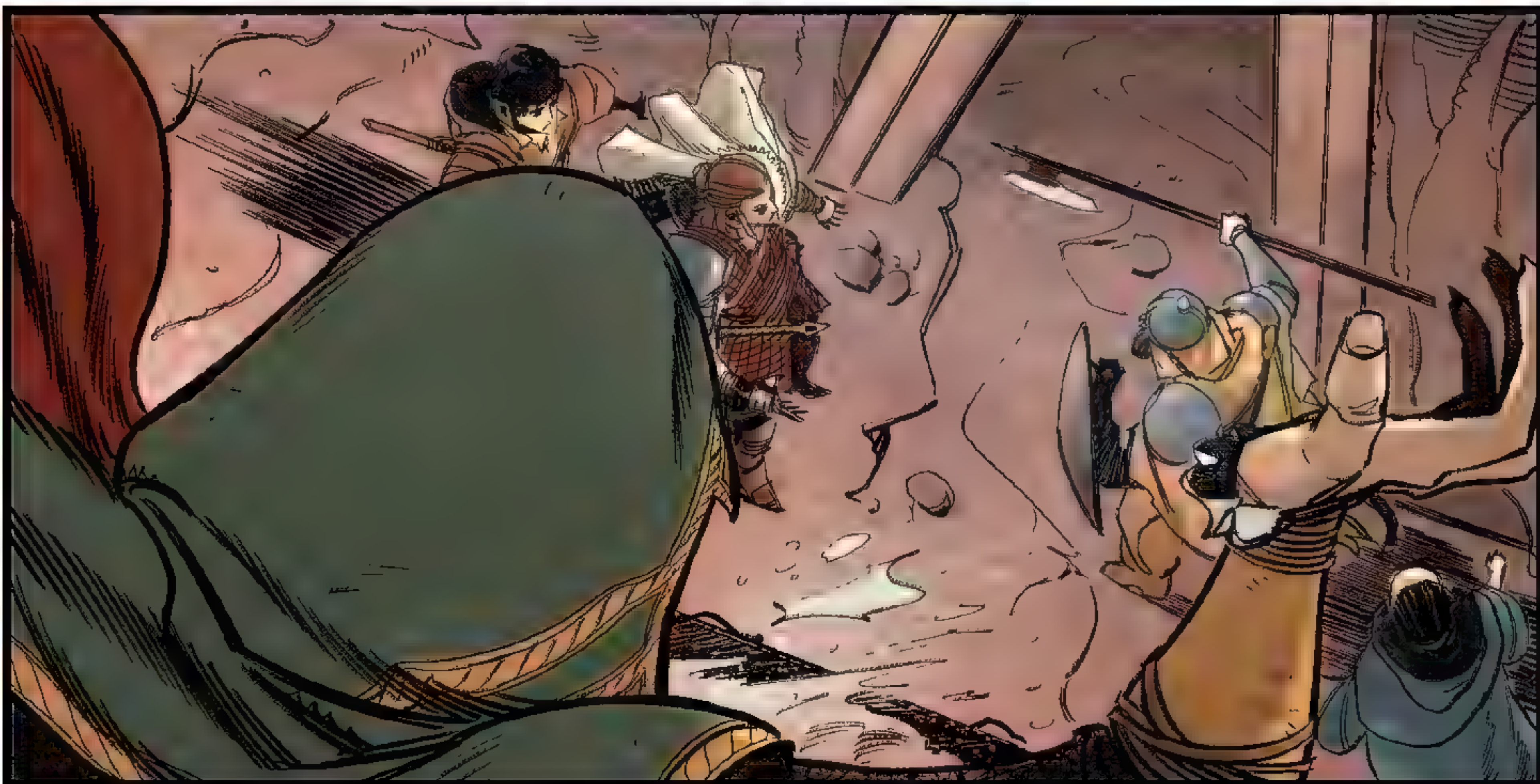
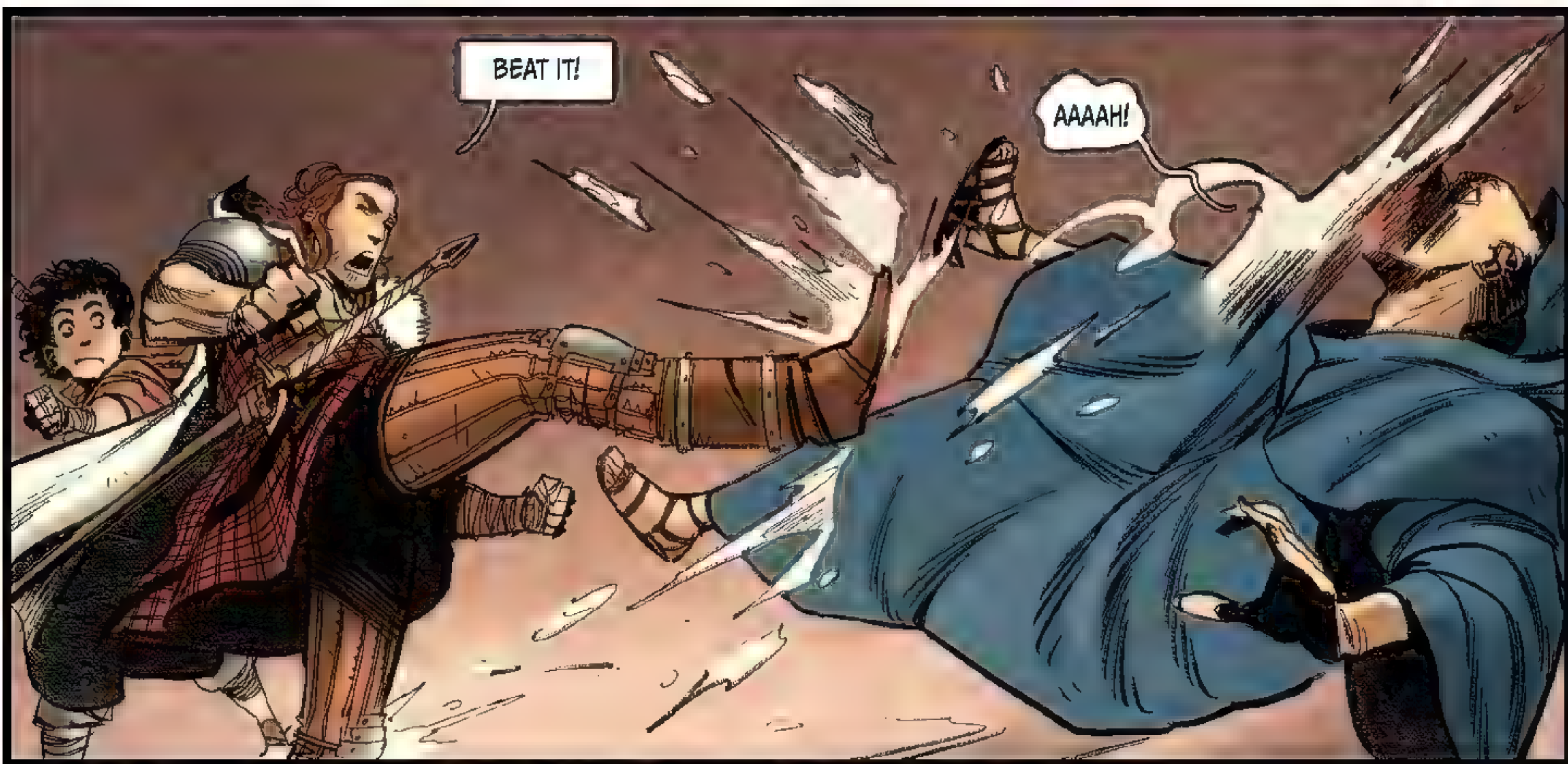
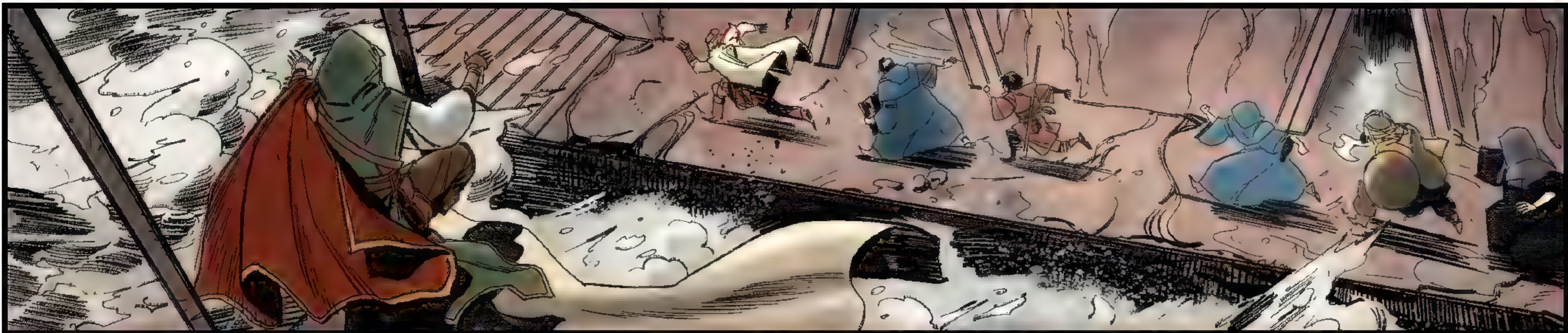
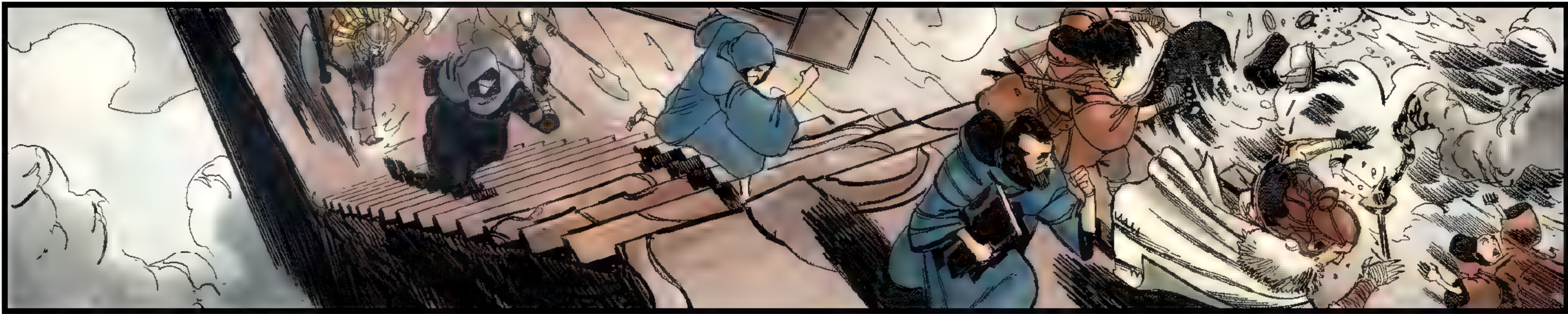
WHERE'S THE RELIC?!

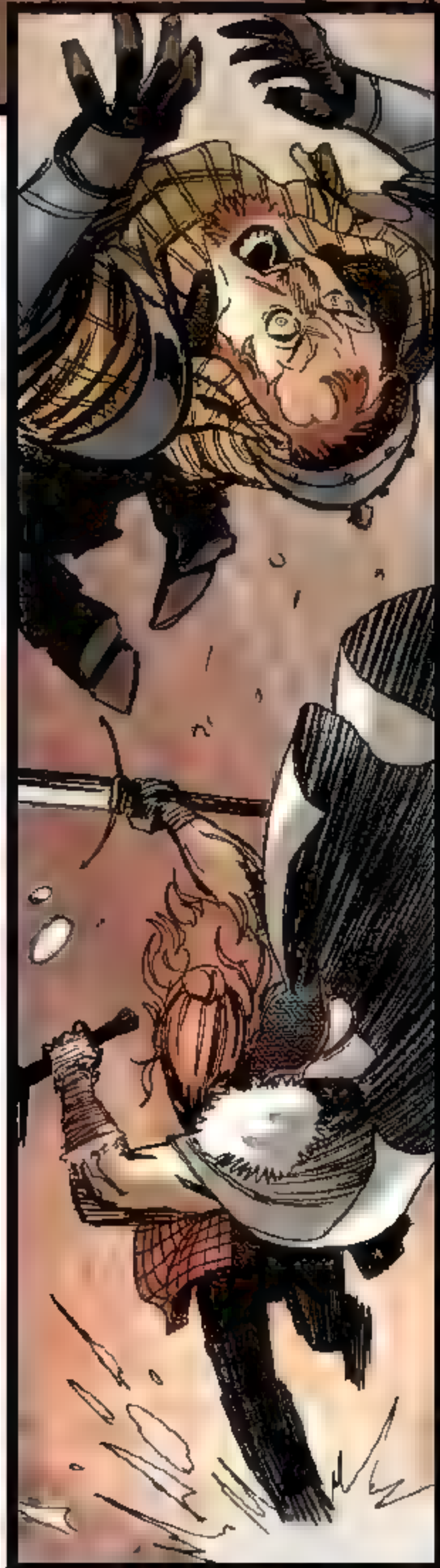
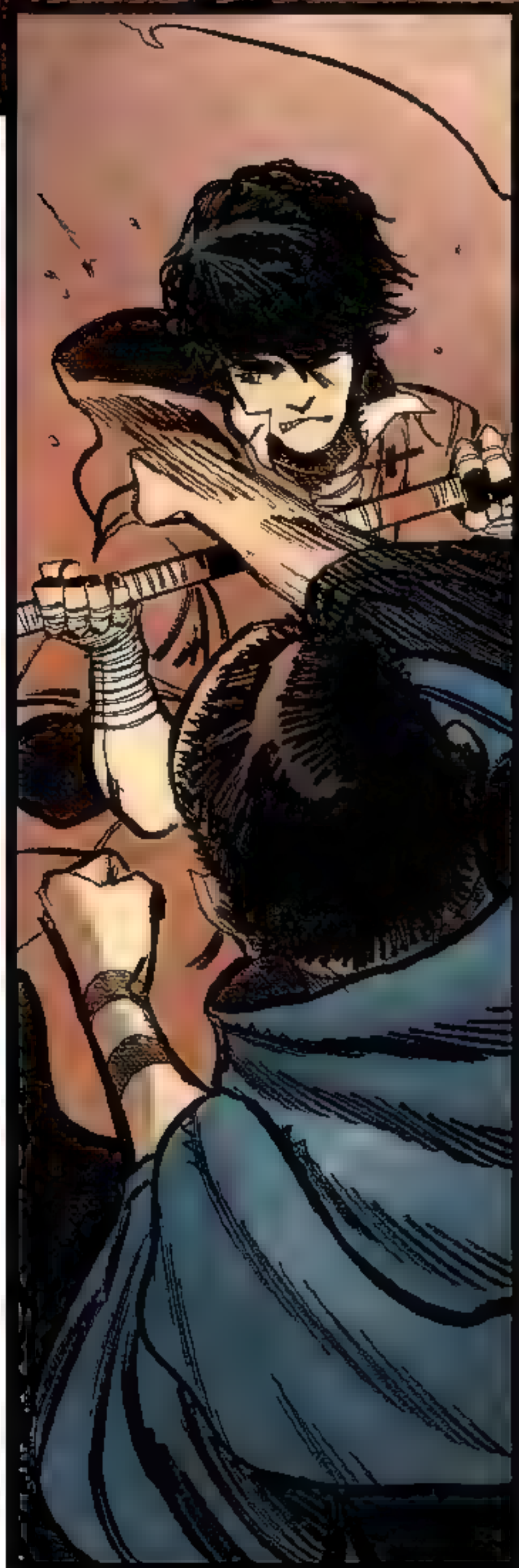
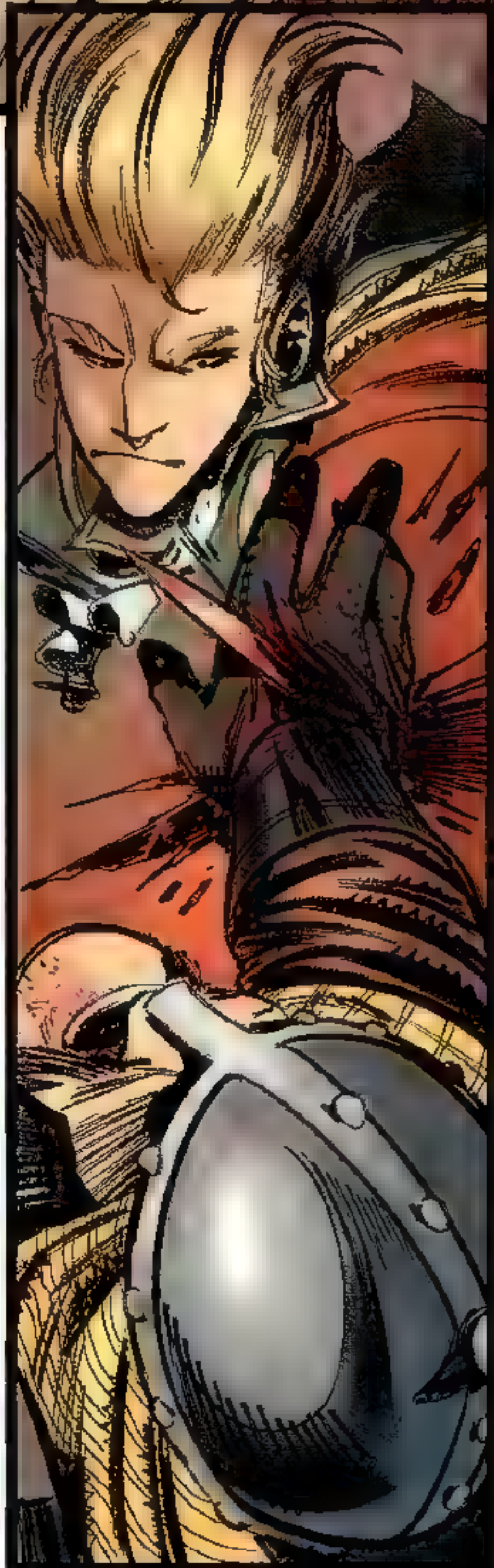
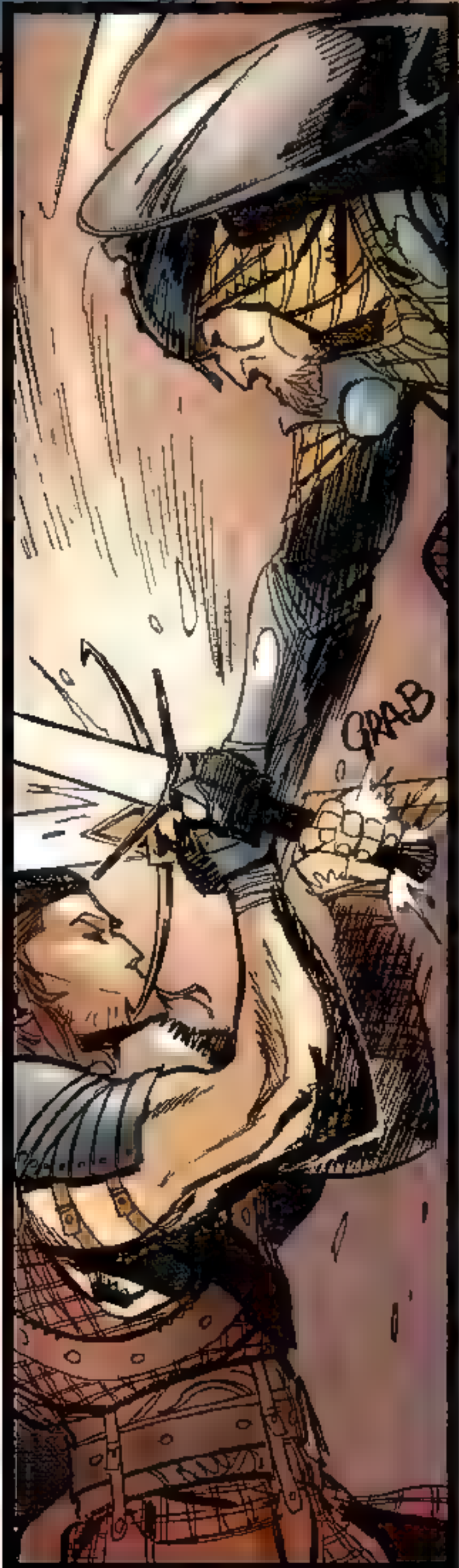


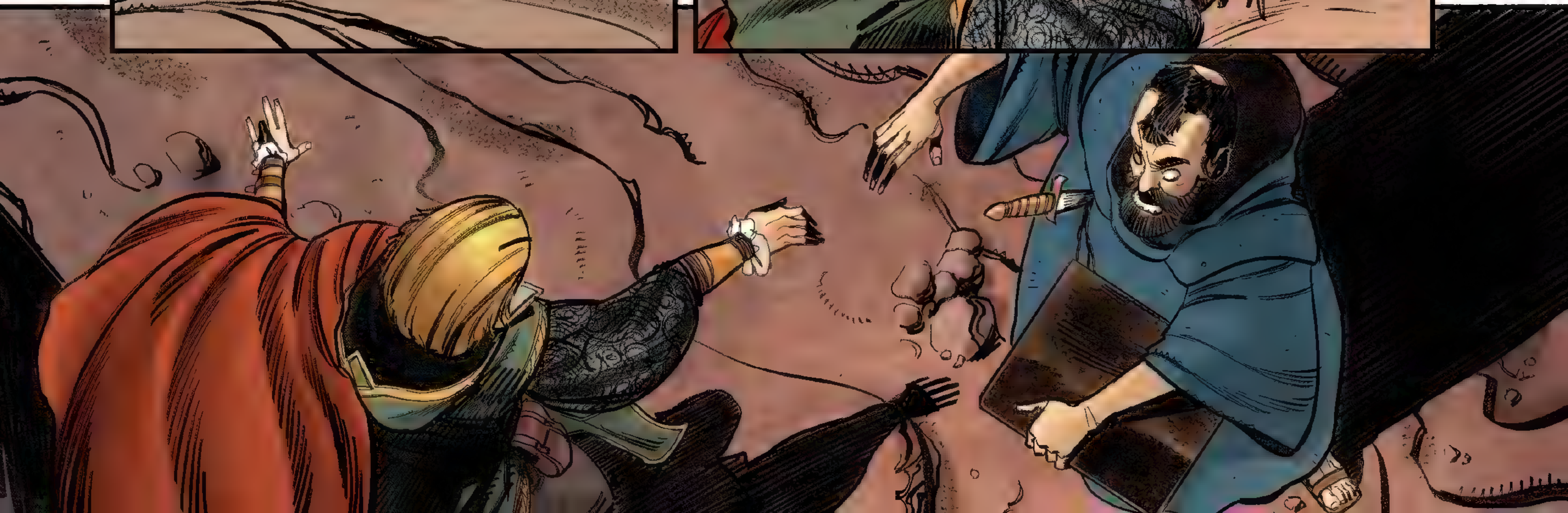
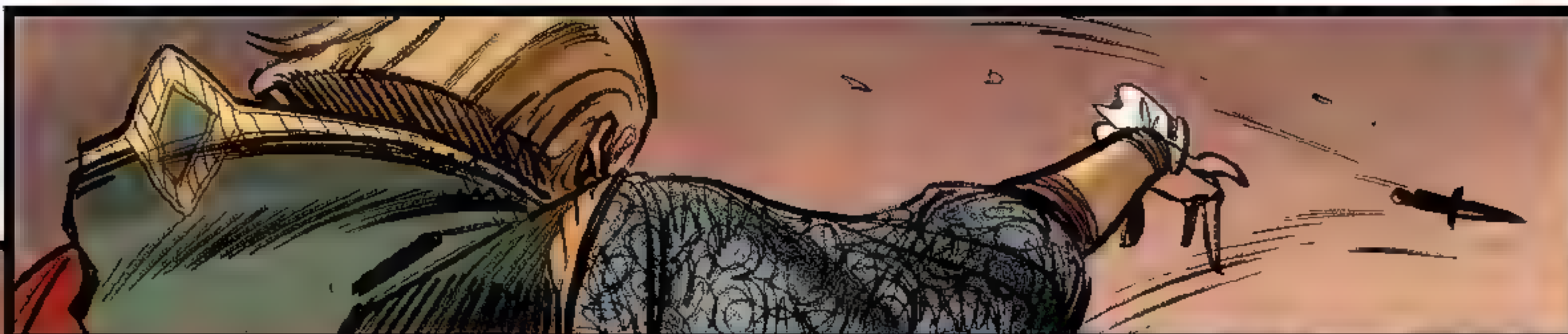
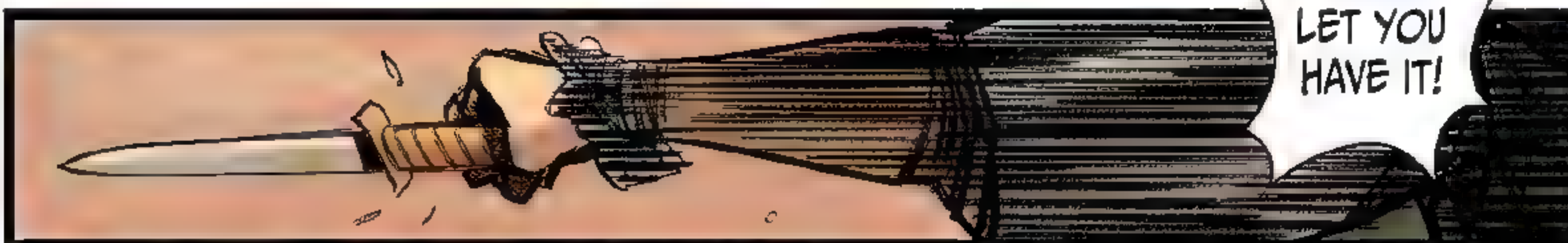
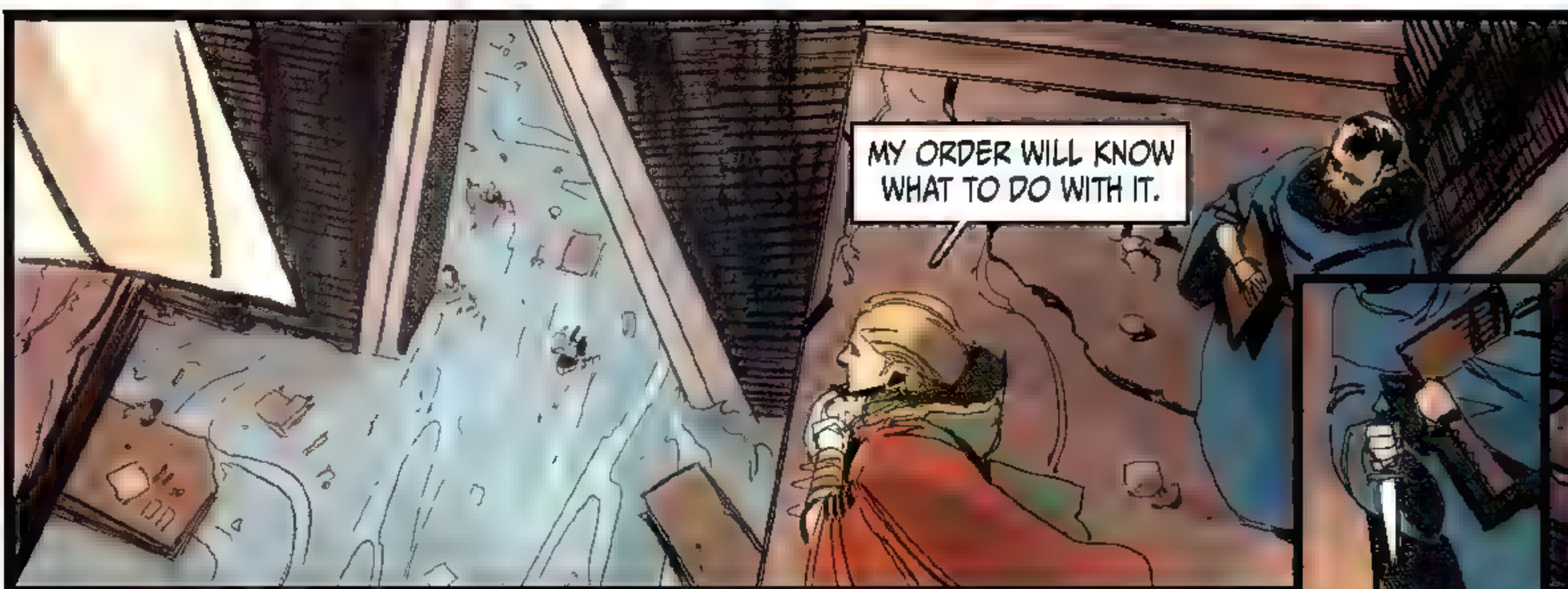
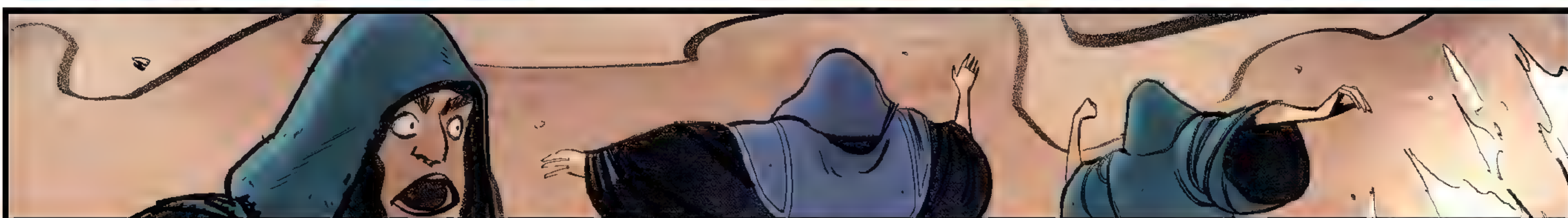
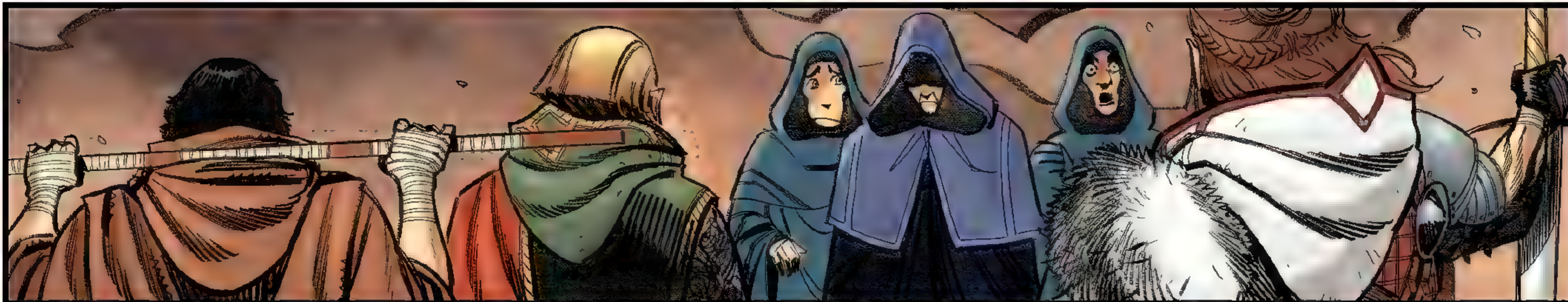
AHA!

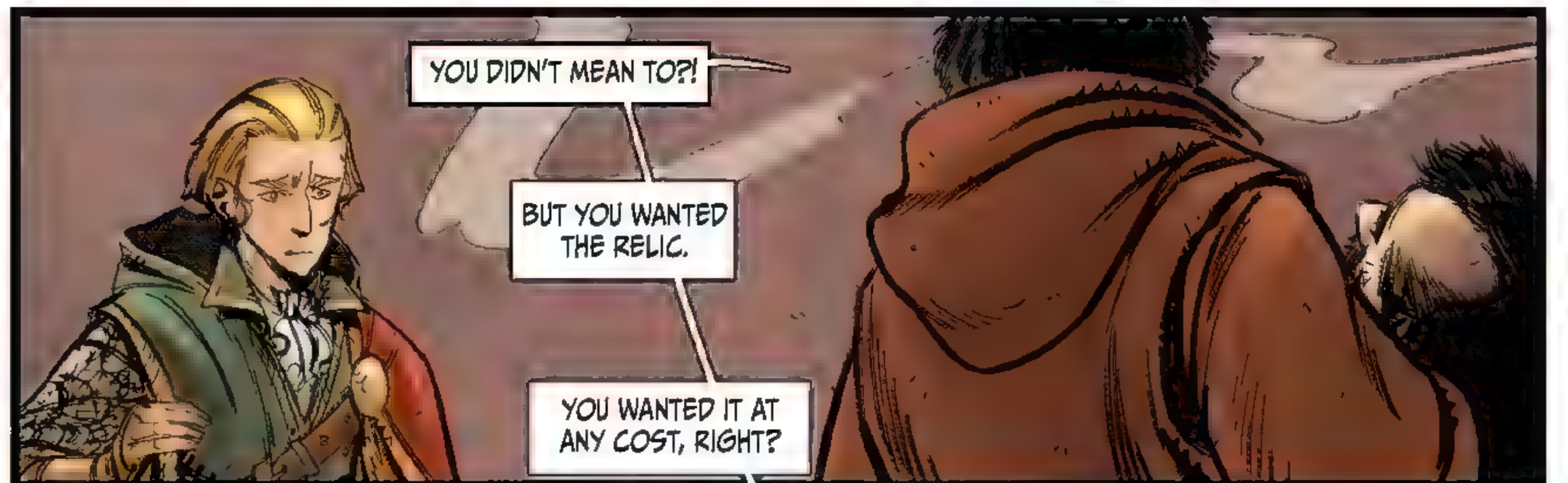
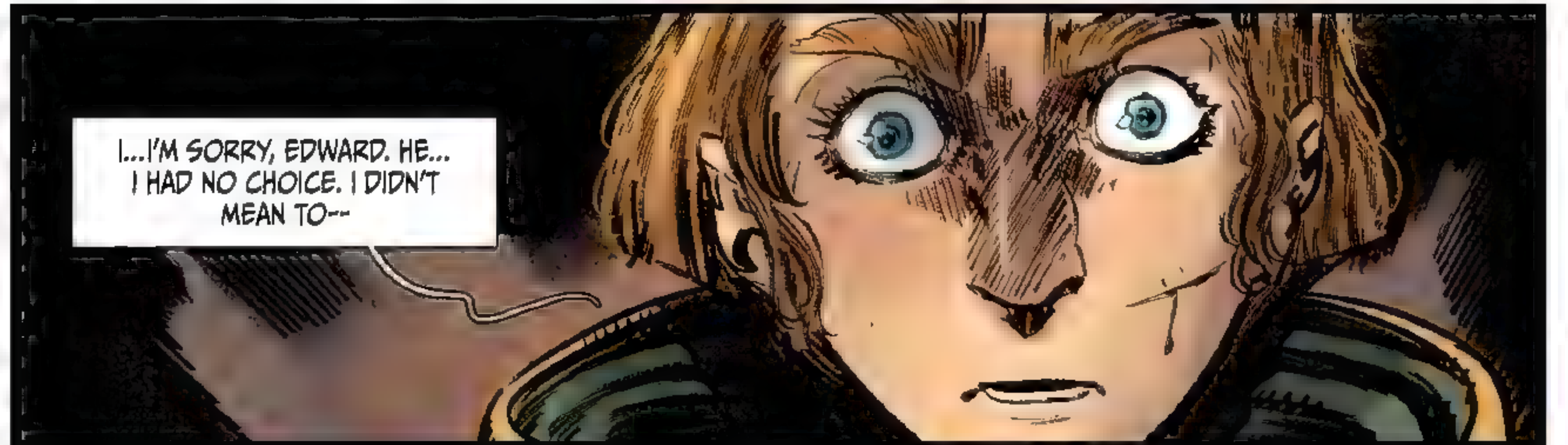
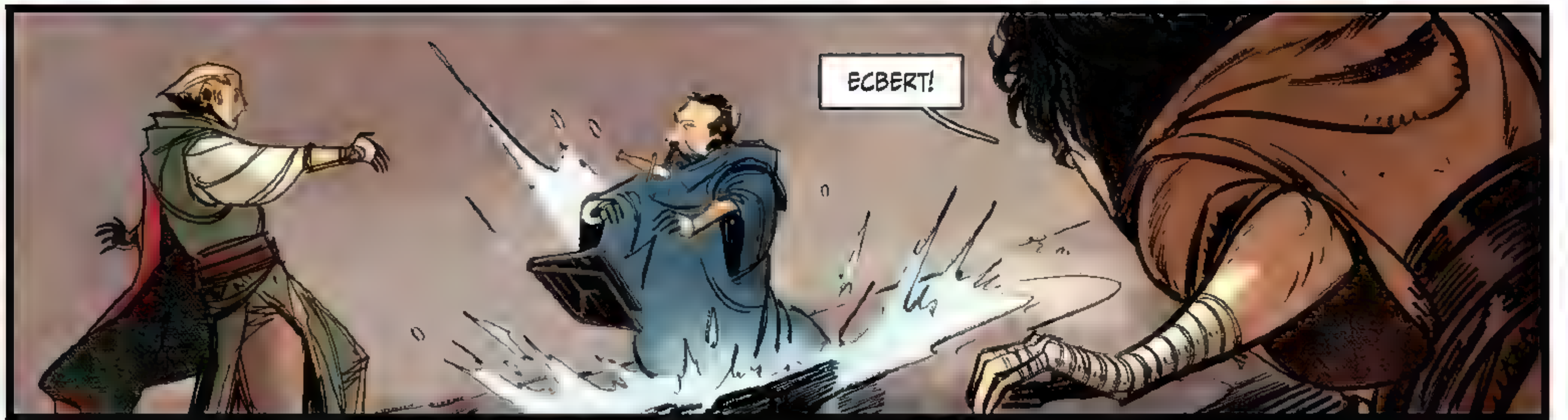


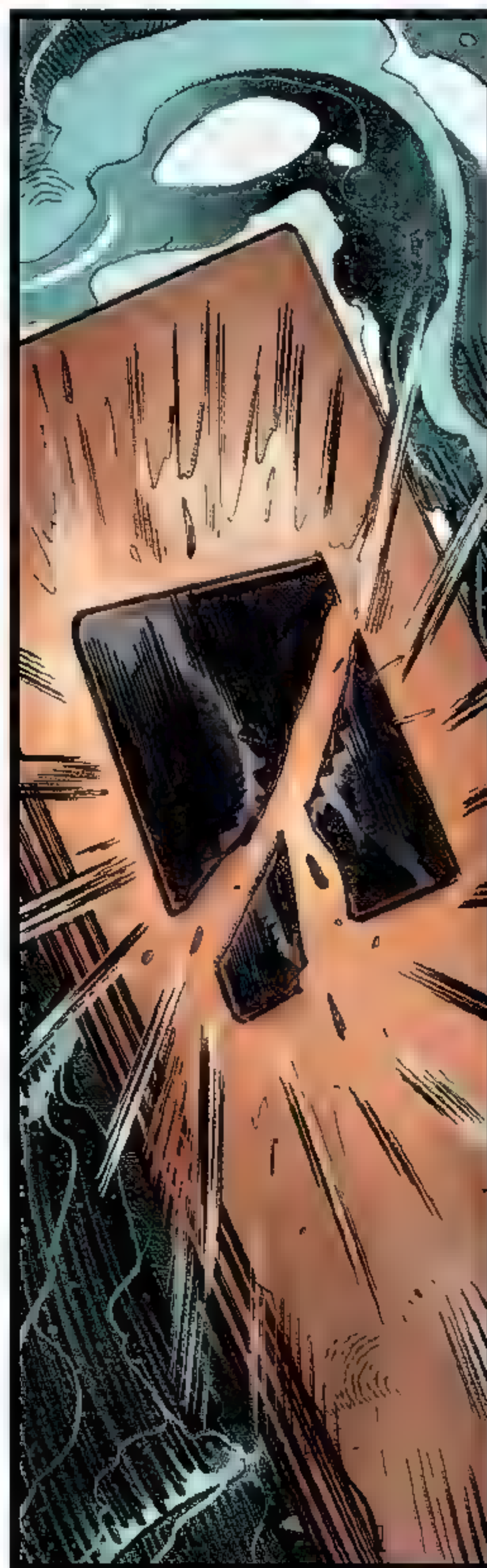
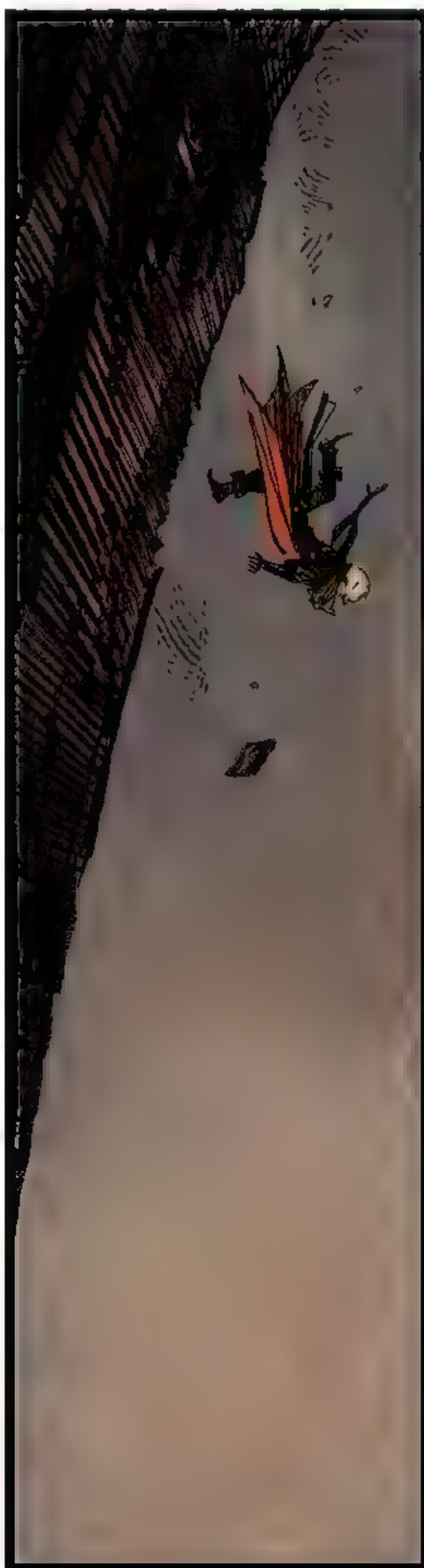
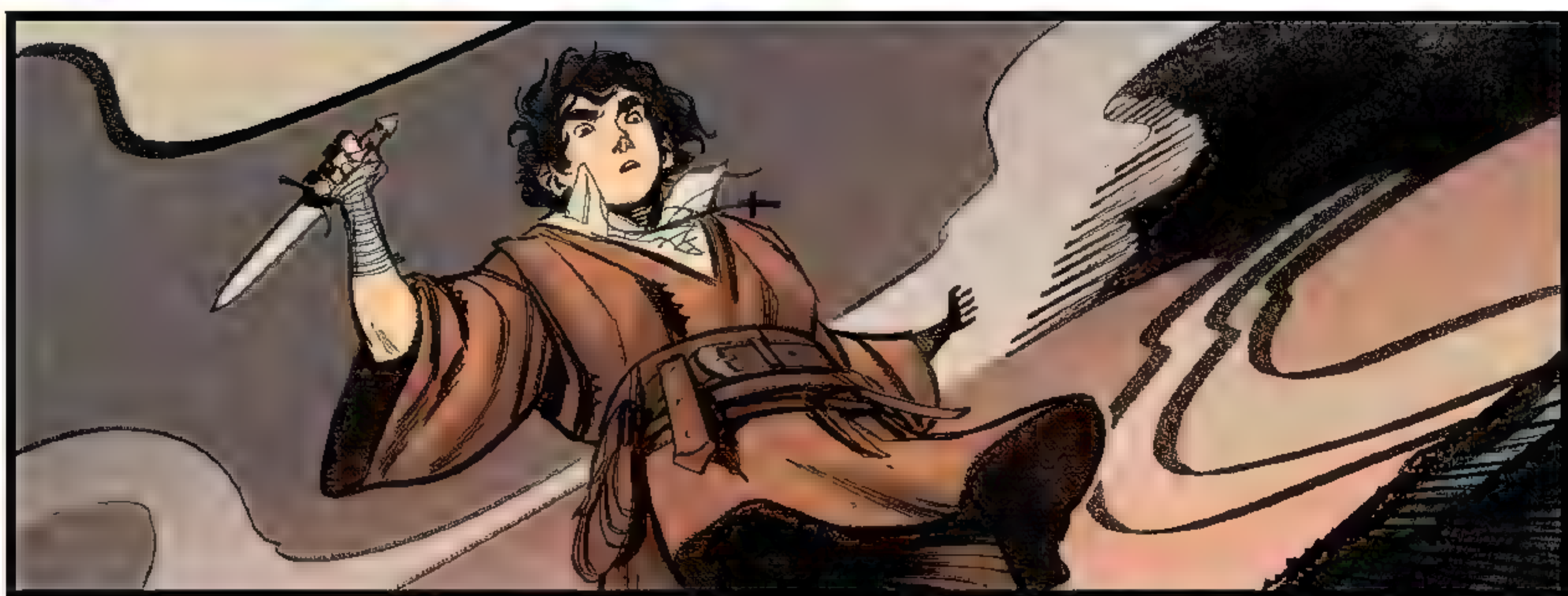
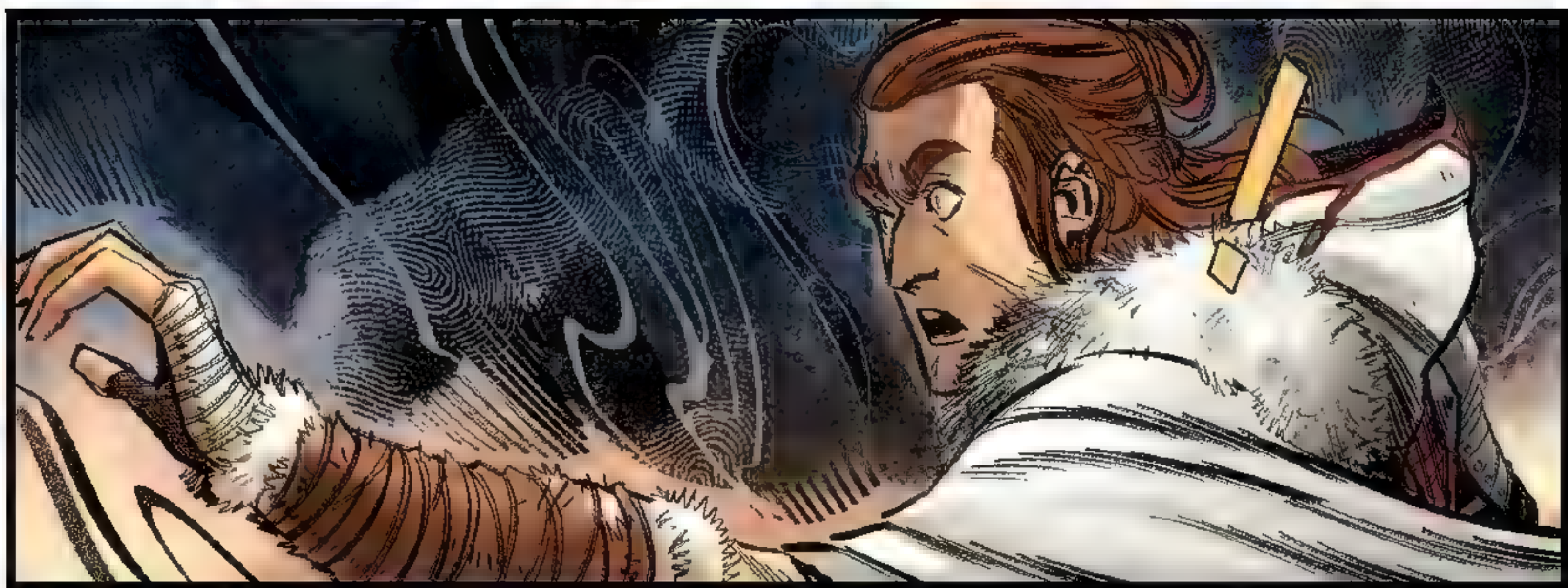
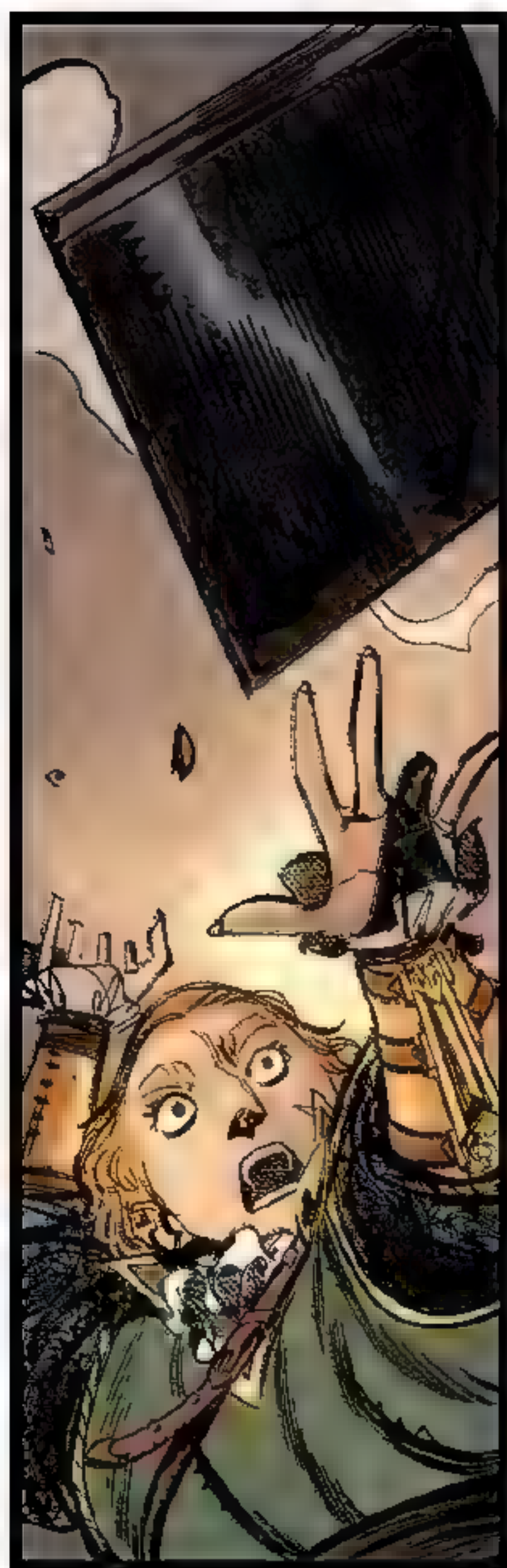
THE TRAITOR HAS IT!

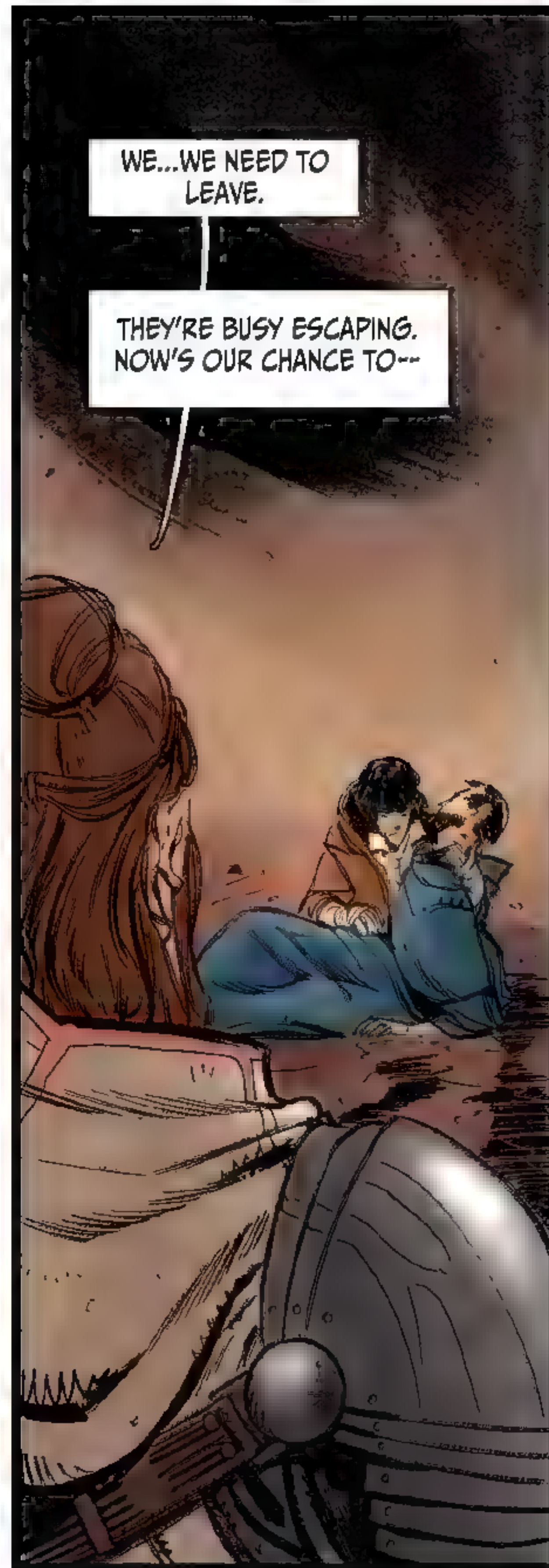
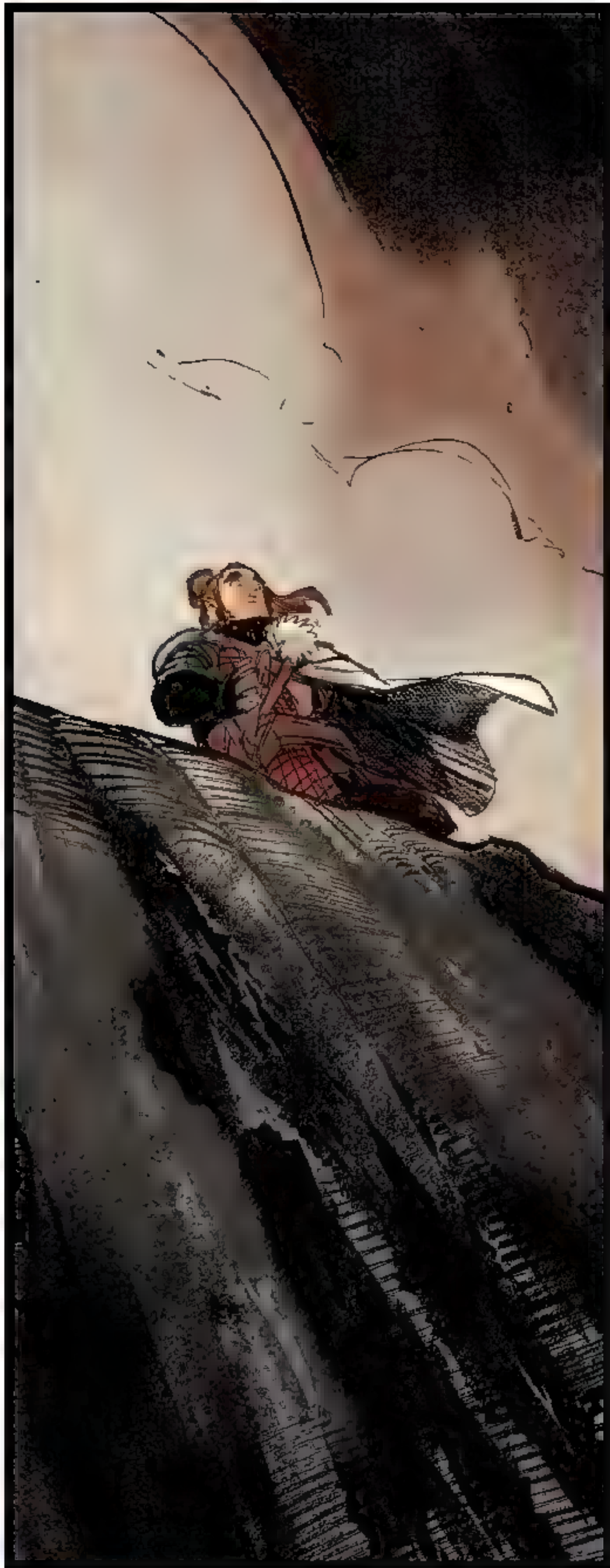
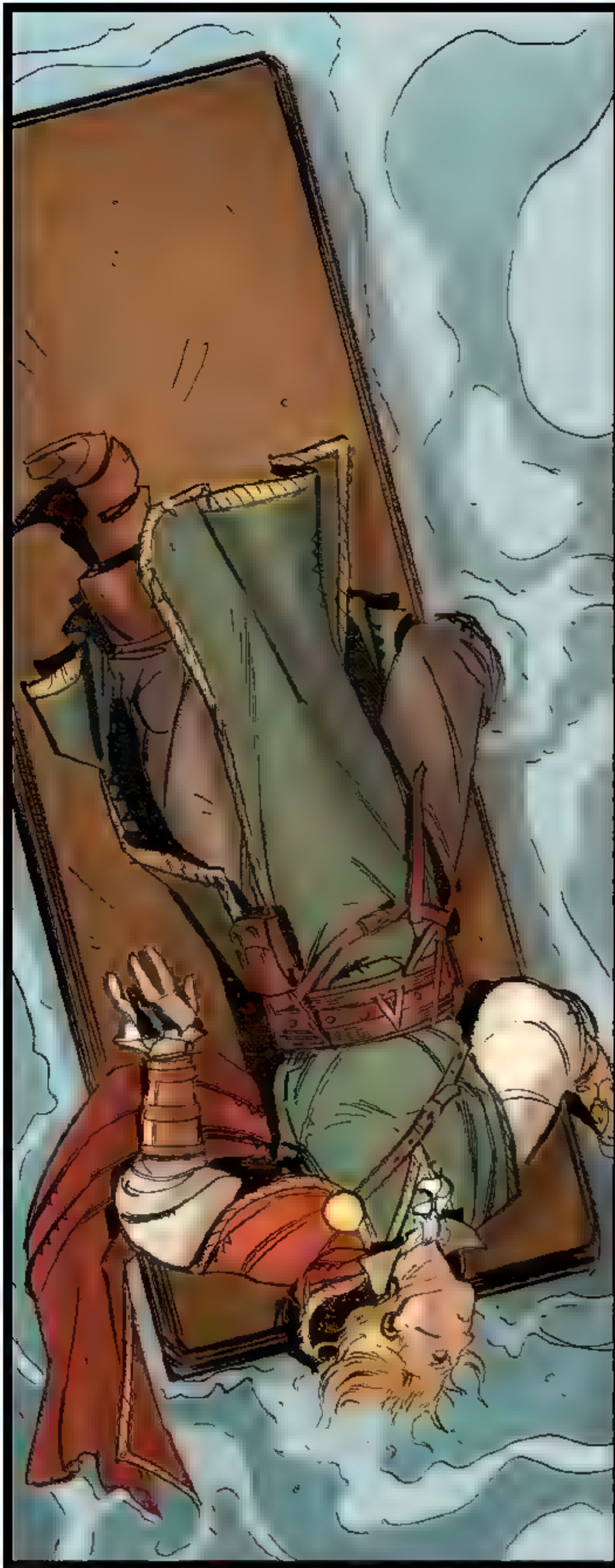












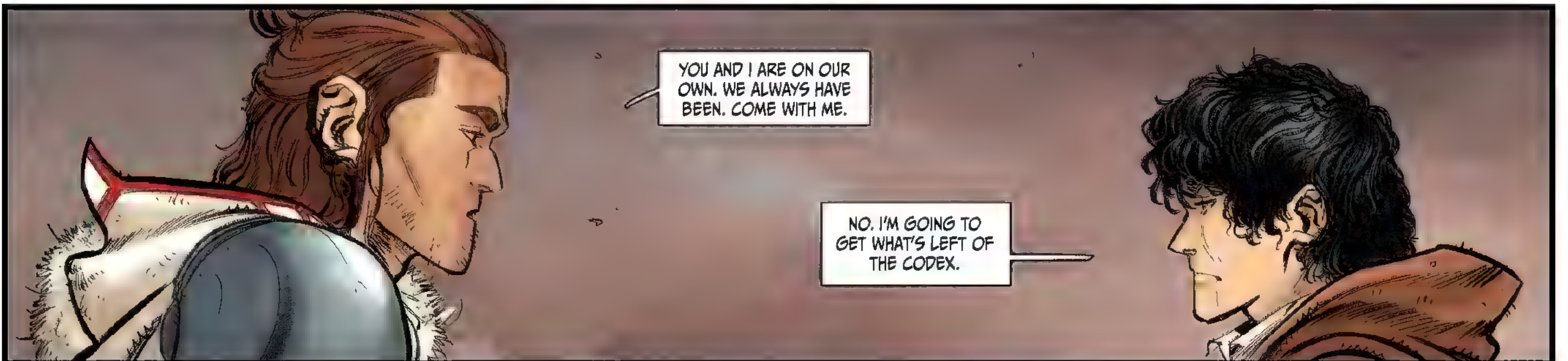
WE...WE NEED TO
LEAVE.

THEY'RE BUSY ESCAPING.
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO--



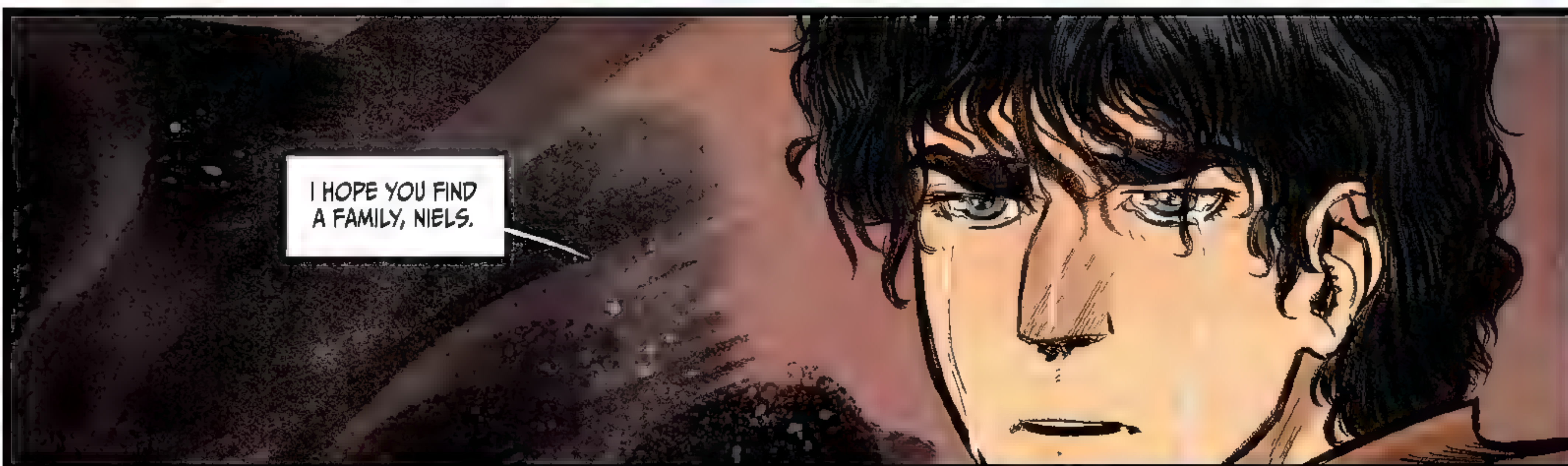
I JUST KILLED
YOUR MENTOR.

THAT'S NO
REASON TO LET
YOU DIE HERE.



YOU AND I ARE ON OUR
OWN. WE ALWAYS HAVE
BEEN. COME WITH ME.

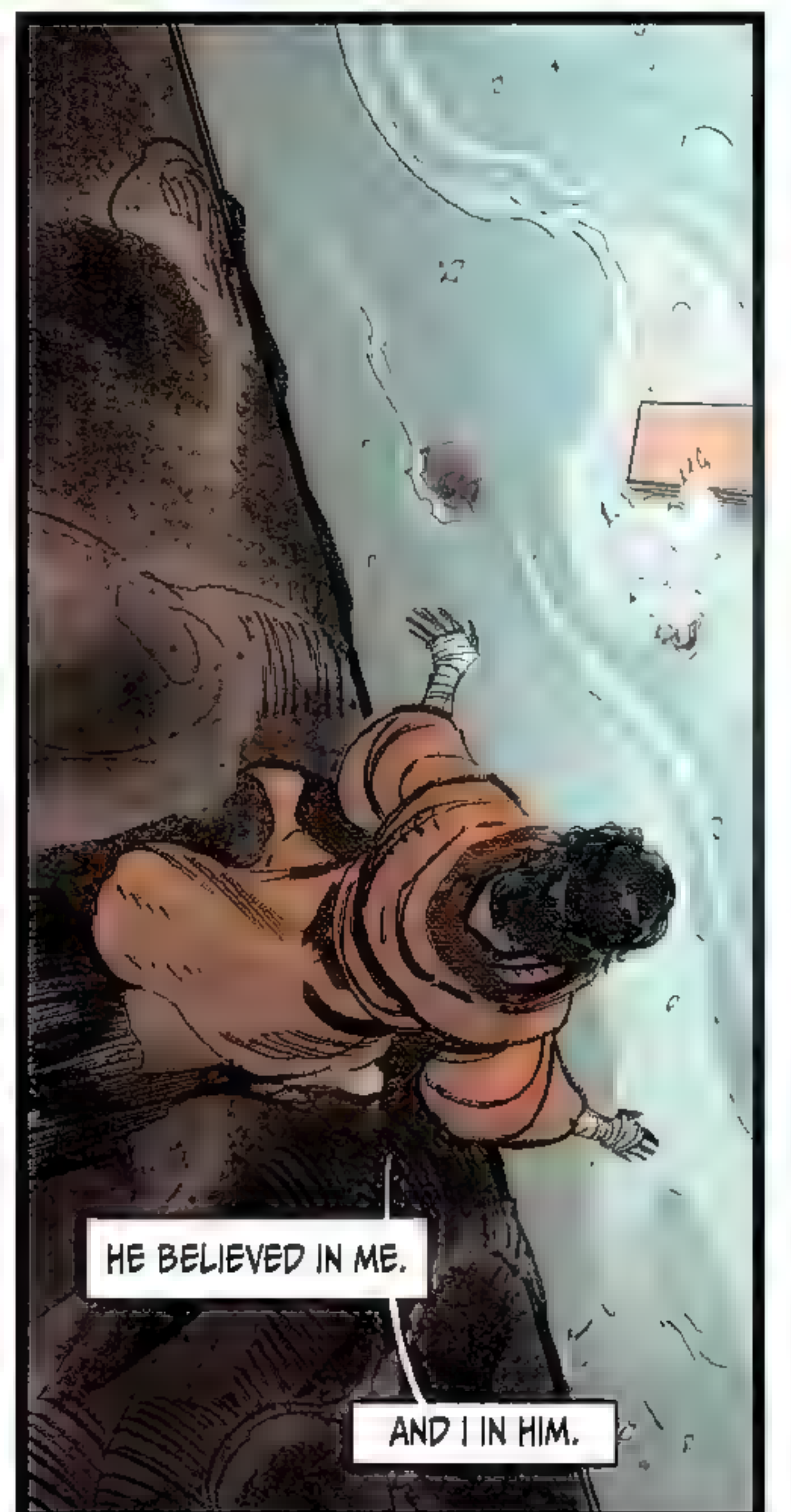
NO. I'M GOING TO
GET WHAT'S LEFT OF
THE CODEX.



I HOPE YOU FIND
A FAMILY, NIELS.

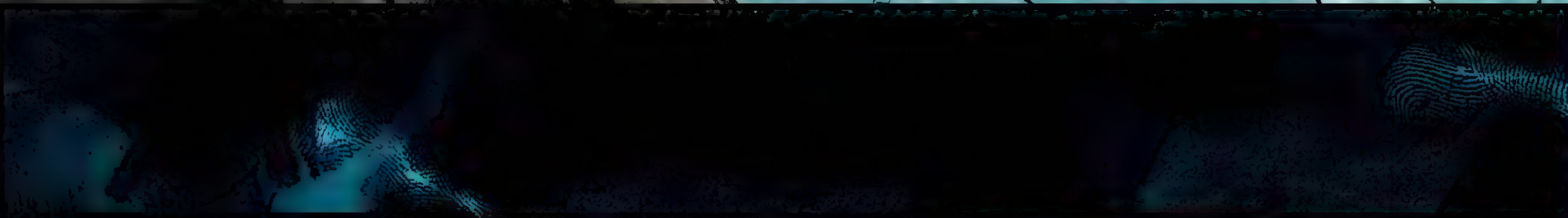
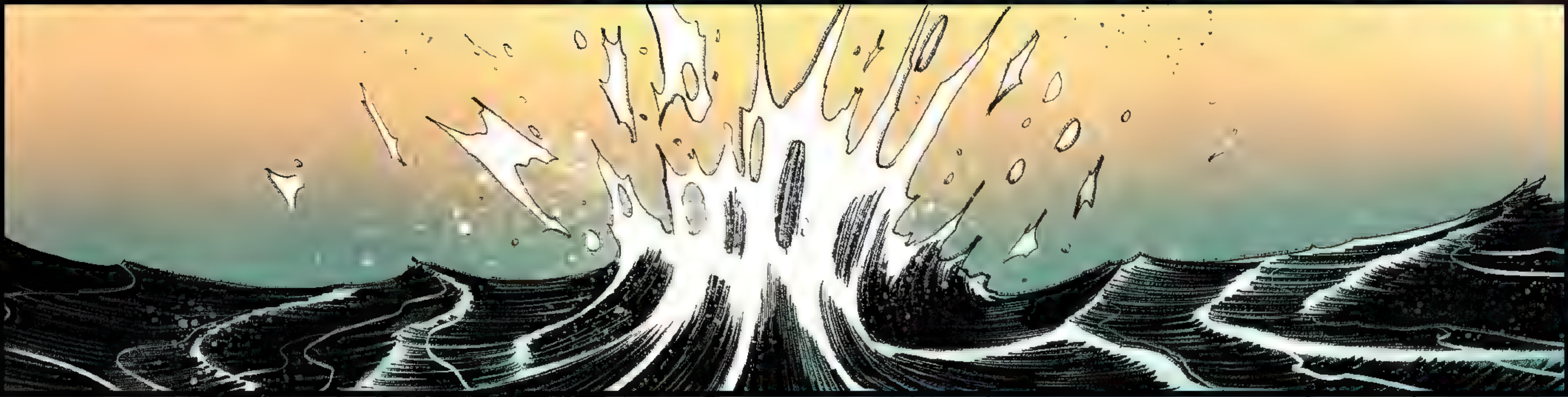


BUT I ALREADY HAVE ONE.
MY BROTHER KNEW IT.



HE BELIEVED IN ME.

AND I IN HIM.



RAVENSTHORPE, A FEW WEEKS LATER.

AND...THAT'S ALL?

YOU COULDN'T SAVE ADELAIDE?

OR THE ARTIFACT?

HE MADE IT OUT ALIVE. THAT'S A MIRACLE IN ITSELF.

EDWARD DIVED IN TO RECOVER THE CODEX. I DIVED IN TO SAVE HIM.

WHERE IS HE?

I WAS UNABLE TO SAVE...HIS SOUL.

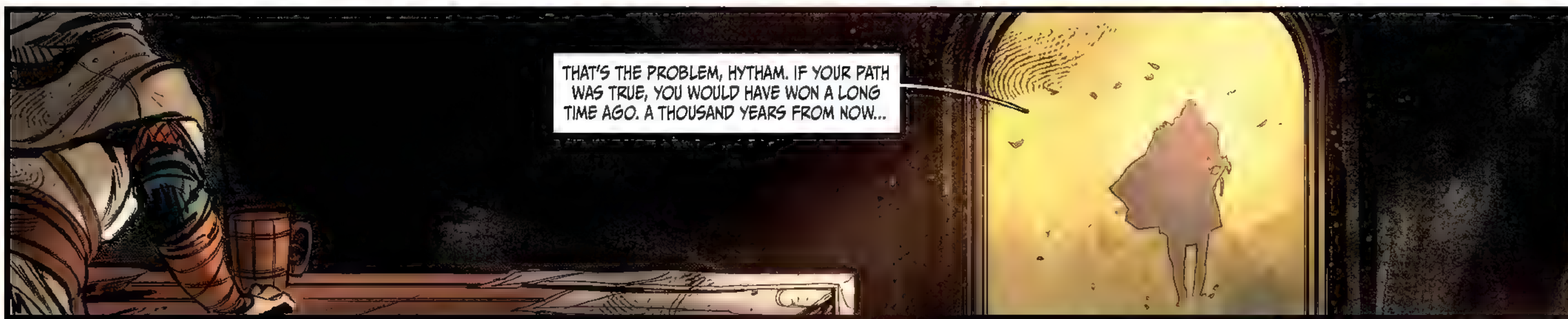
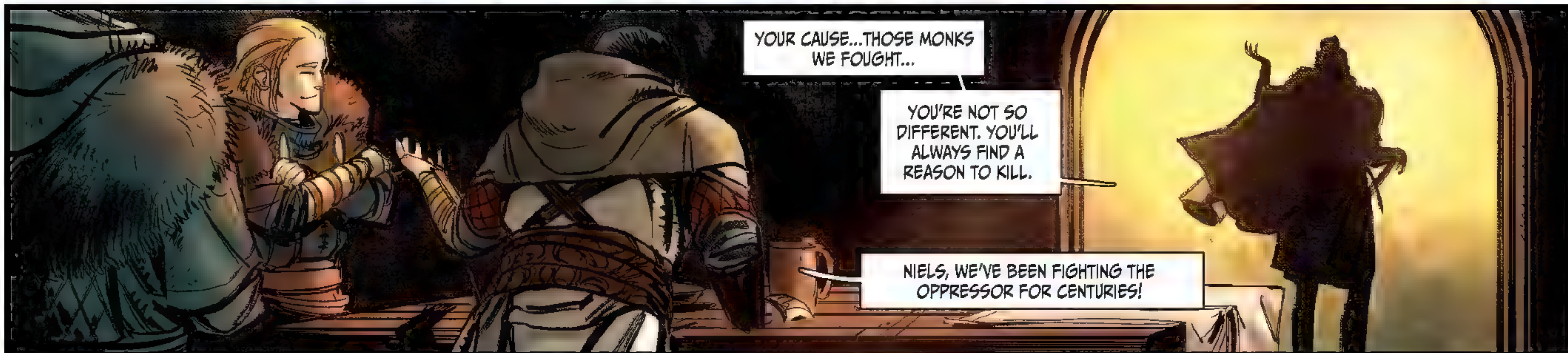
AND MINE HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED.

I WAS ABLE TO RECOVER ADELAIDE'S BLADE. HERE...

NO.

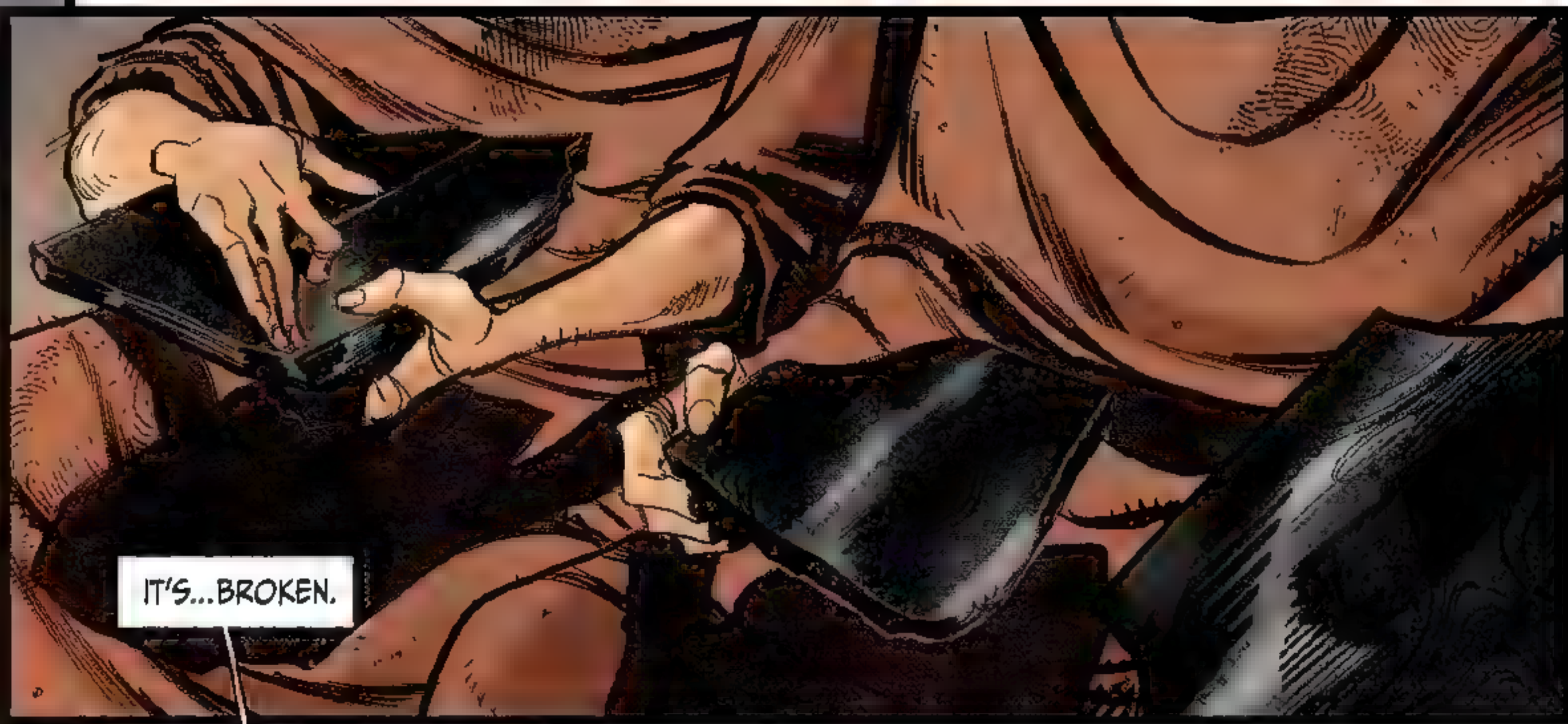
YOU EARNED IT, NIELS. YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW. A HIDDEN ONE.

YOU DON'T GET IT, HYTHAM. I HAVEN'T CHANGED.





FORGIVE ME, SIRE.



IT'S...BROKEN.



I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO
SHARE WITH YOU HOW IT
WORKS.



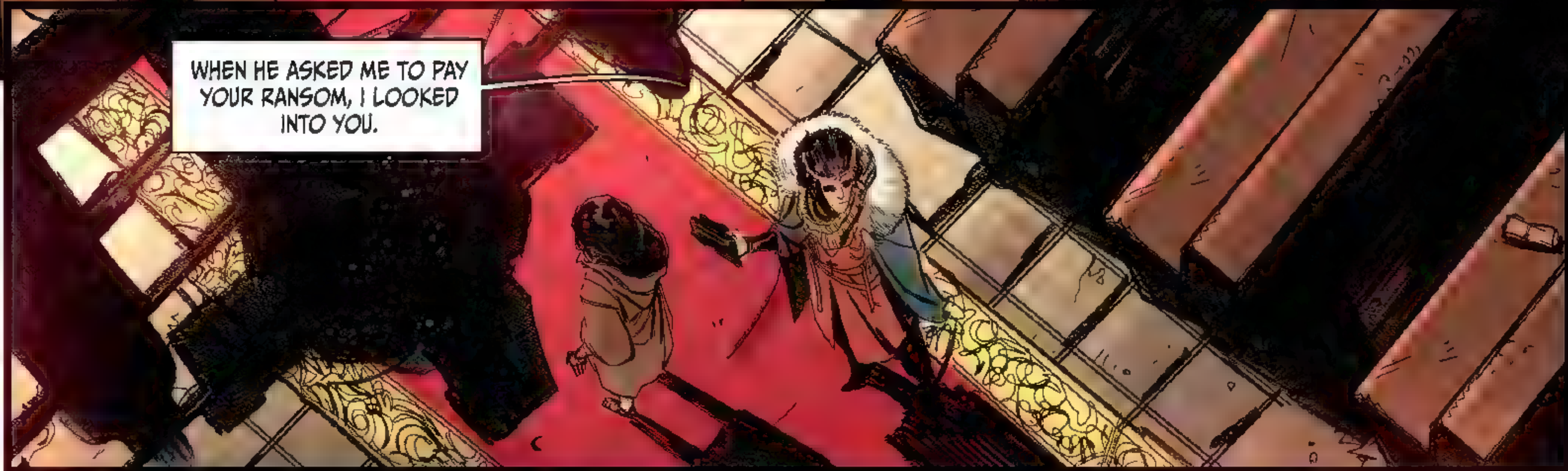
SO WHY BRING IT
TO ME?



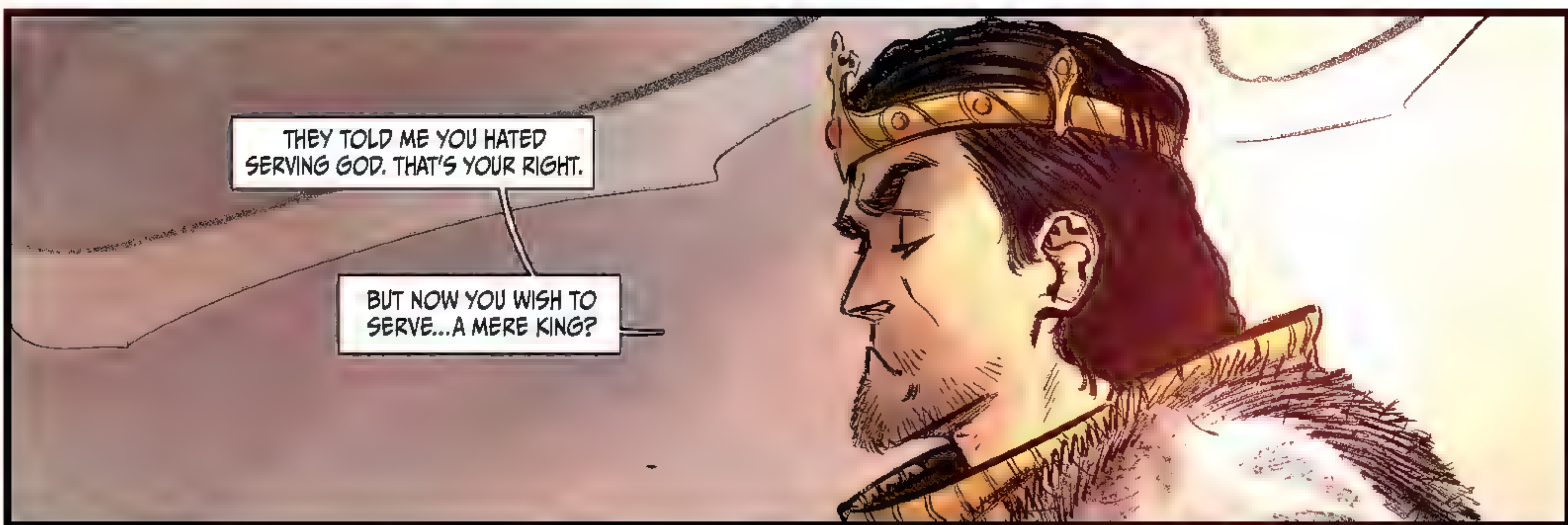
TO PROVE THAT I WISH TO
SERVE YOU, KING AELFRED.

SERVE ME?

I SENT YOUR BROTHER
TO HIS DEATH, YOUNG
EDWARD.

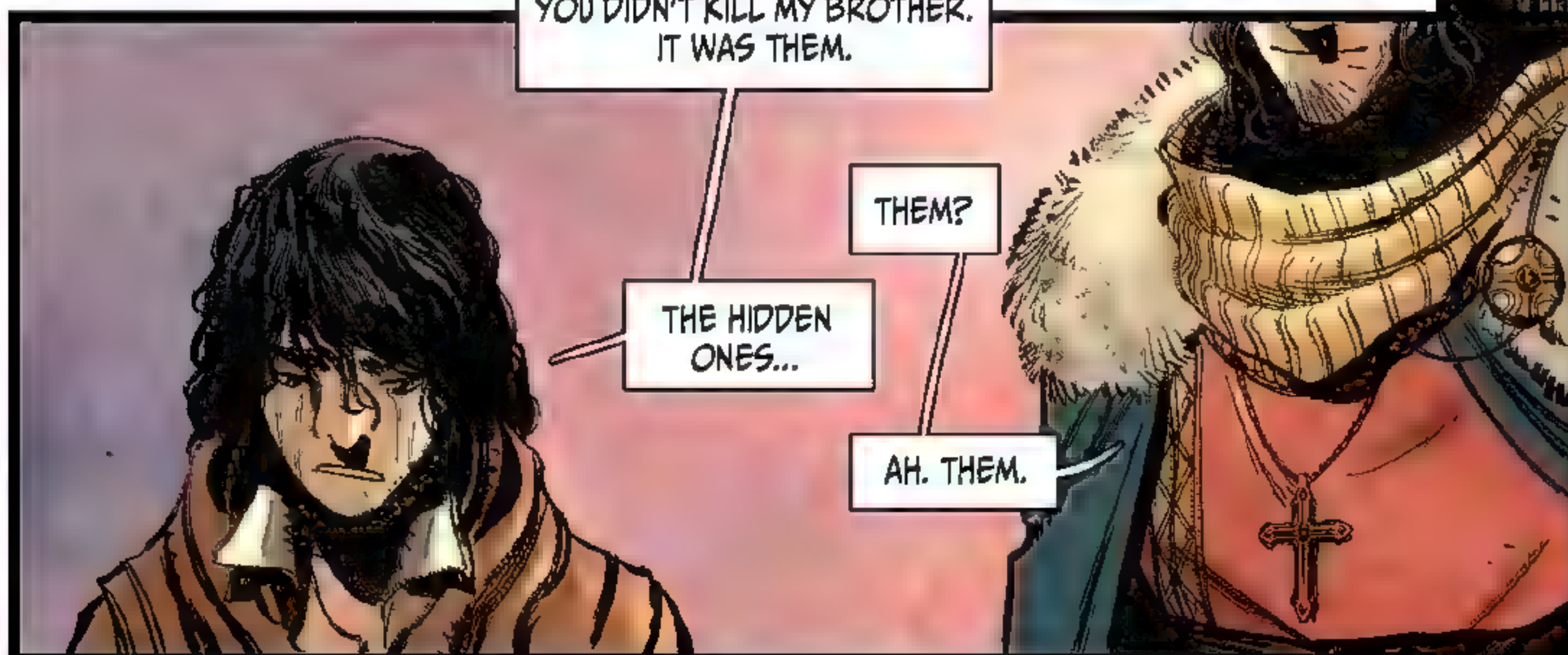
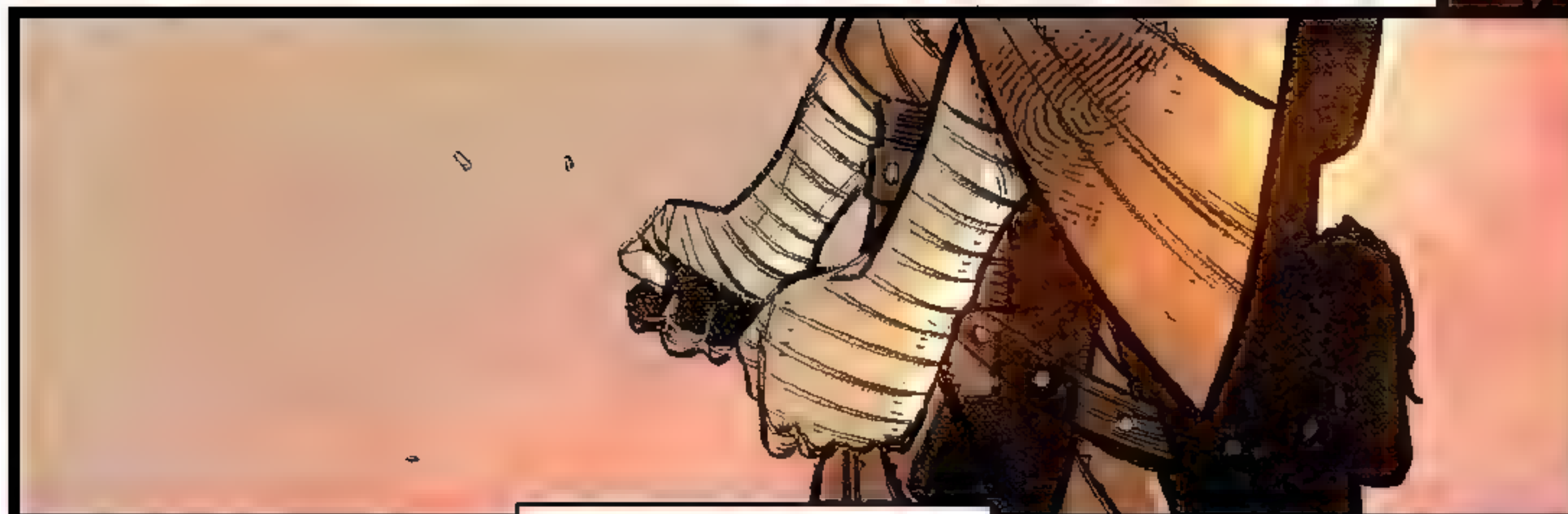


WHEN HE ASKED ME TO PAY
YOUR RANSOM, I LOOKED
INTO YOU.



THEY TOLD ME YOU HATED
SERVING GOD. THAT'S YOUR RIGHT.

BUT NOW YOU WISH TO
SERVE...A MERE KING?



YOU DIDN'T KILL MY BROTHER.
IT WAS THEM.

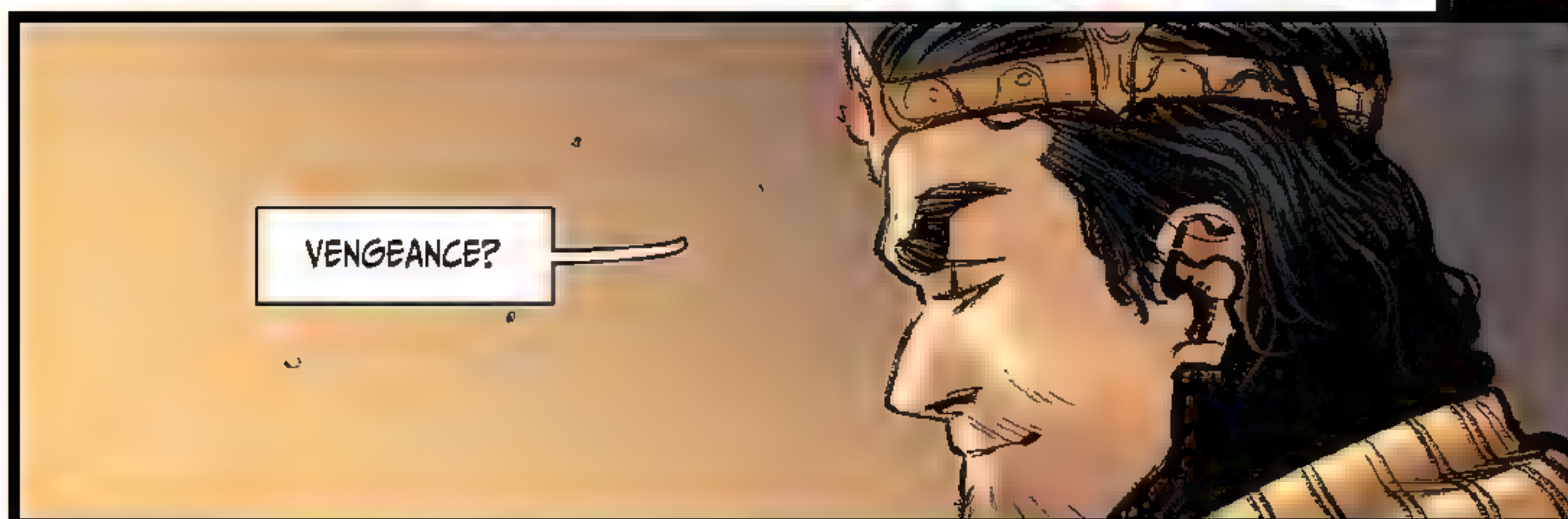
THEM?

THE HIDDEN
ONES...

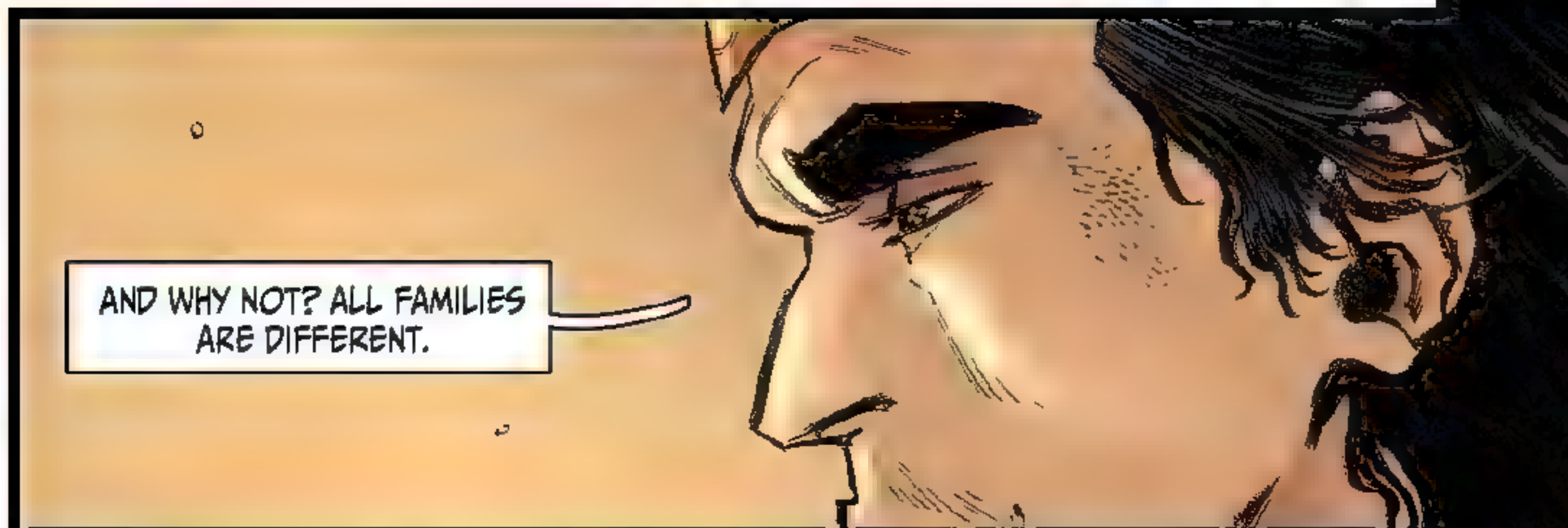
AH. THEM.



AND I WON'T BE SERVING
YOU, BUT A CAUSE DEAR
TO YOU.



VENGEANCE?



AND WHY NOT? ALL FAMILIES
ARE DIFFERENT.

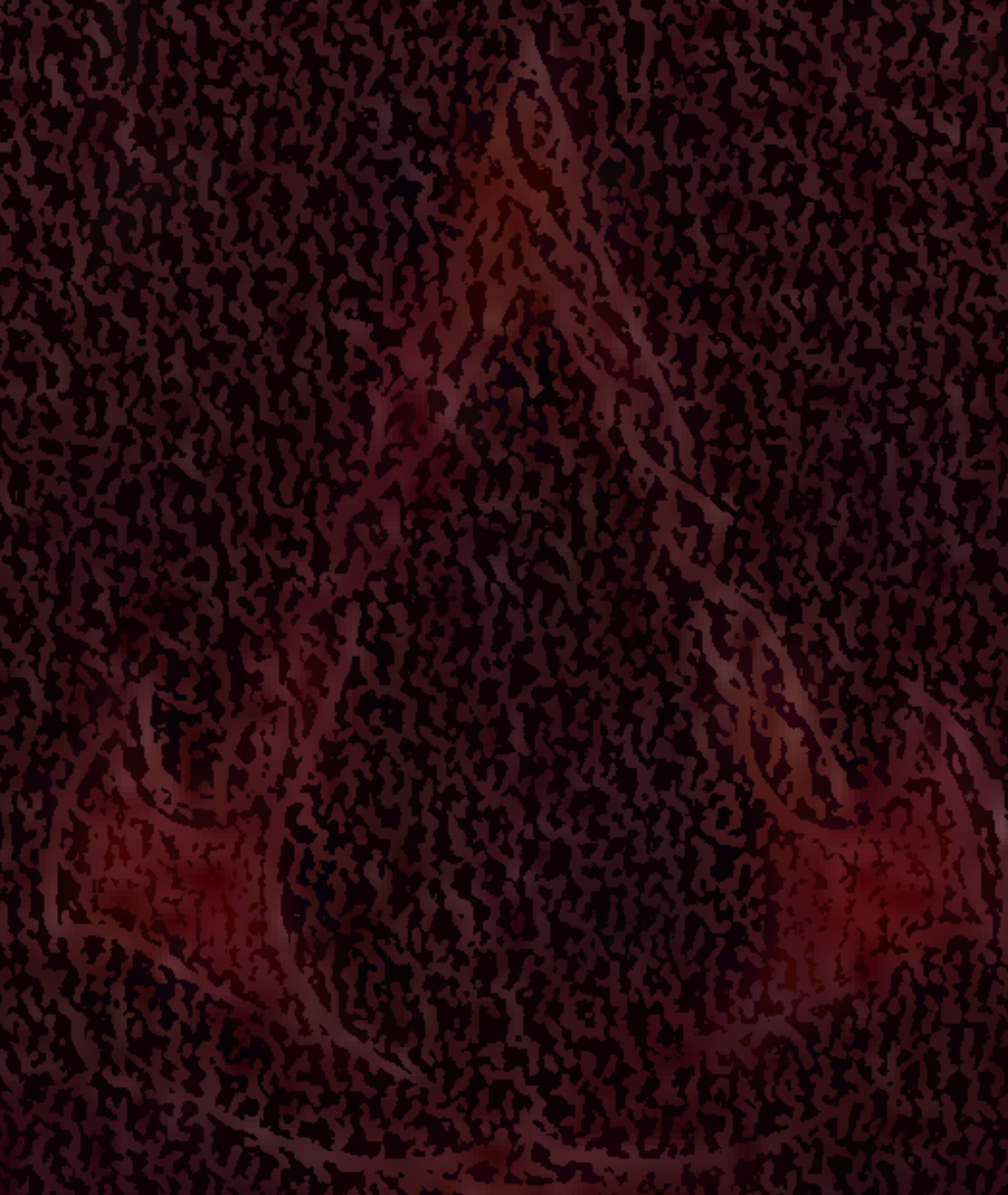


WELCOME TO
YOURS, EDWARD.



WELCOME HOME,
MY SON.

**THE
END**

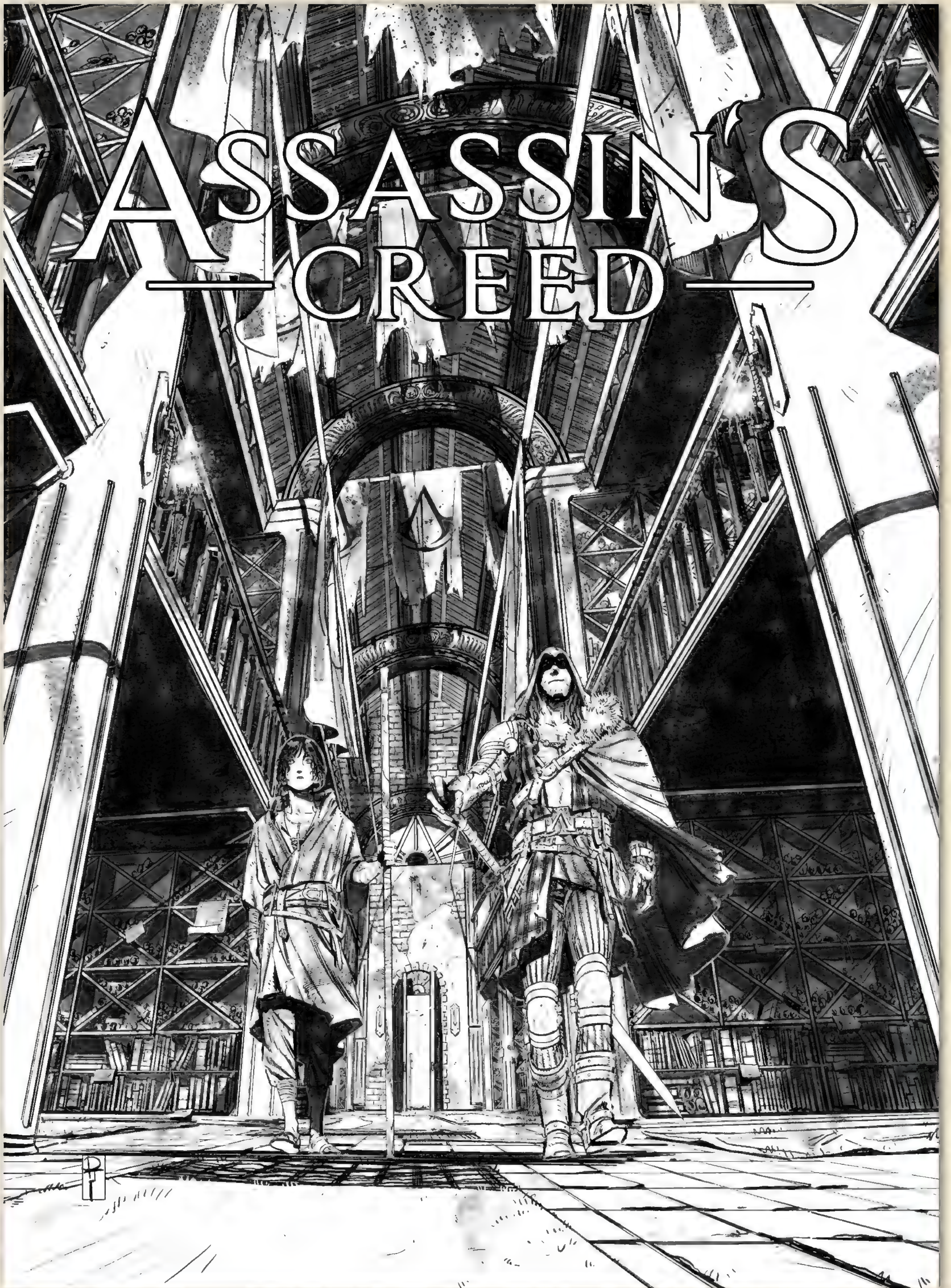


ARCHIVES

INITIAL COVER SKETCHES



ASSASSIN'S CREED



THE CREATIVE PROCESS

AC VALHALLA les Convertis

Page 50

FIGHT : silent page, it's fierce and there can be effects : shapes of the pictures, diminishing size when coming to the end of the page to accelerate the pace ?

Panel 1

STRIP : Adelaide, Niels and Ed are in front of us.

ADELAIDE

Vous devriez partir, vous et vos tonsures de galeux.

SOLDIER

Aaaaaah !!!

Panel 2

STRIP : countershot ; The monks and soldiers look at them, angry, ready to fight.

MONK

Tuez-les.

Panel 3

STRIP : they run toward each other, weapons ready = the soldiers and monks, adelaide with the hidden blade out, Niels with a large sword, Ed with a stick

Panel 4

Adelaide cuts a face with the blade

Panel 5

Niels rips a man with his sword

Panel 6

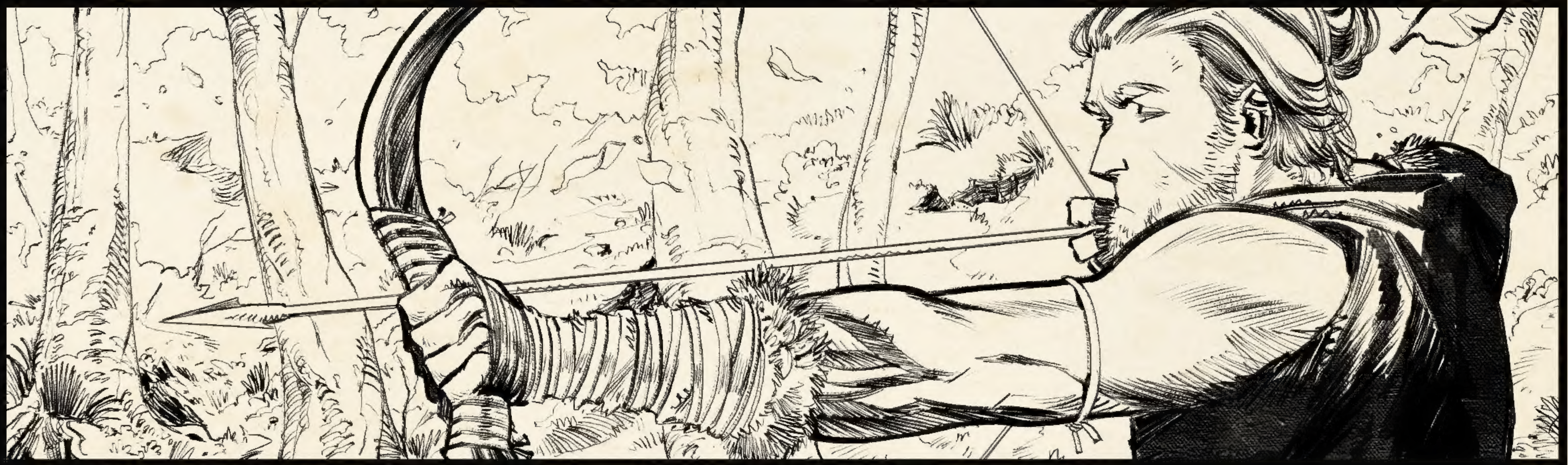
Ed strikes his stick in a soldier's stomach

Panel 7

Ed strikes a man in the legs, making him fall, while Niels cuts his arm with the sword getting up : coordination !



SKETCHES OF NIELS





COVER FOR THE ASSASSIN'S CREED® VALHALLA STORY ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 2020 ON THE UBISOFT STORIES WEBSITE.



SECRET KNOWLEDGE. A FORBIDDEN WEAPON.

AFTER SECURING HIS OWN FREEDOM FROM A CLAN OF VIKINGS THAT KIDNAPPED HIM, EDWARD, A SCRIBE AND RELUCTANT MONK, RETURNS TO FIND HIS BROTHER MISSING AND STRANGE DOCUMENTS BLACKENED BY A LANGUAGE HE INNATELY UNDERSTANDS. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THESE OCCULT-LOOKING SYMBOLS CAME FROM, BUT EDWARD HAS SEEN SUCH WRITINGS BEFORE: IN THE WORKSHOP OF AN ENIGMATIC WISE MAN AMONG THE VIKINGS WHO IS PART OF A SECRET ORDER: THOSE UNSEEN. AN ORDER THAT COULD OFFER ANSWERS TO EDWARD, AND GUARANTEE HIS ASPIRATIONS OF FREEDOM AND KNOWLEDGE. BUT WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE, CAN HE FIND AND RESCUE HIS OWN BROTHER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

DISCOVER A GRAPHIC NOVEL OF HISTORICAL ADVENTURE, WRITTEN BY MATHIEU GABELLA AND WITH KINETIC ART BY PAOLO TRAISCI. UNCOVER THE MYSTERIES BEHIND THE HIDDEN CODEX.



SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

